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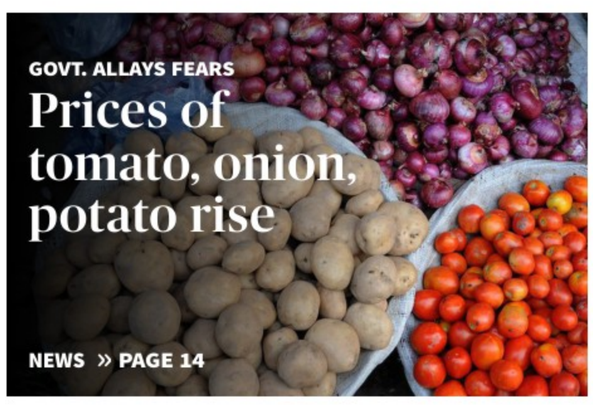
ARRESTS CONTINUE

Key accused in NEET paper leak case held

NEWS » PAGE 14



GOVT. ALLAYS FEARS

Prices of tomato, onion, potato rise

NEWS » PAGE 14

REVENUE JUMP

'States's GST kitty to rise 13-14% in 2024-25'

BUSINESS » PAGE 15

WAKE-UP CALL

Industrial disasters and poor inspections

Checks and penalties will rein in accidents

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

CHAMPIONS RETURN

Indian cricket team to be felicitated today

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

MUDA 'scam' puts CM under the scanner

MYSURU
The alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority to land-losers remain controversial and are expected to give fodder to the Opposition for attacking the government during the legislature session.
» PAGE 6

State govt. fixes ₹300 price cap on dengue test

BENGALURU
The State government on Wednesday fixed a price cap of ₹300 each on Dengue Elisa NS1 antigen and Dengue Elisa IgM antibody tests in private hospitals and diagnostic laboratories. » PAGE 5

Champai quits to make way for Hemant's return

MLAs from JMM-led alliance unanimously elect Hemant Soren as new leader; he was released on bail in money laundering case on June 28; BJP accuses JMM of playing dynastic politics

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren resigned on Wednesday, paving the way for his predecessor Hemant Soren to stake his claim to form the government and return to the State's top post after being unanimously elected leader of the ruling alliance's legislators at a marathon meeting in Ranchi.

Mr. Hemant Soren, son of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) supremo Shibu Soren, had resigned as Chief Minister in January shortly before he was taken into custody by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam. He was released on bail on June 28.

Change of guard: Outgoing Jharkhand CM Champai Soren, JMM leader Hemant Soren and State Congress chief Rajesh Thakur meeting Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan in Ranchi on Wednesday. PTI

Ending his five-month term, Mr. Champai Soren met Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan at the Raj Bhavan on Wednesday evening and tendered his resignation in the presence of Mr. Hemant Soren, who staked his claim soon afterwards.

The outgoing CM is said to be "upset" over the development, though he has denied this, and is likely to be given a new responsibility as the chairman of INDIA bloc coordination committee in the State or as executive president of the JMM, sources said.

"I have resigned on my own," Mr. Champai later told presspersons.

Alliance partners from the Congress, including Ghulam Ahmad Mir, the party's in-charge for the State, and State Congress chief Rajesh Thakur, were present at the meeting of legislators from the INDIA coalition who reached a consensus on the change of guard.

Reacting to the development, BJP spokesperson Vinay Singh said: "It is clear that once a dynast, always a dynast. The momentary transition of power to Champai Soren was nothing but a façade."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

We must rise above politics for peace in Manipur, says Modi

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

In his first detailed remarks on the Manipur conflict in Parliament since ethnic violence broke out in the State over a year ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the Rajya Sabha that efforts were on to bring peace, adding that history suggests that "social tensions" in the State are deep-rooted.

About 11,000 FIRs have been registered and over 500 people arrested so far, he said, noting that when a similar but more violent unrest took place in the State in 1993, the violence had lasted for five years.

"We have to rise above politics to bring normalcy. The elements trying to add fuel to the fire in Manipur should stop. There will be a time when Manipur will reject them. There is a long history of social tensions that are deep-rooted... We have to act wisely. Whoever wants to contribute to peace-building is welcome," Mr. Modi said.

Narendra Modi speaks in the Rajya Sabha. ANI/SANSAD TV

In his reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, he noted that Manipur had been subject to President's Rule on 10 occasions during the Congress era, but "we have not resorted to such means".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12
EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

26/11 accused Rana can be extradited: U.S. attorney

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

Pakistan-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana, wanted in India for his role in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, is "extraditable under the plain provisions of the U.S.-India extradition treaty", a U.S. attorney has told a court.

Assistant U.S. Attorney, Criminal Appeals Chief Bram Alden was making a closing argument before a U.S. Court of Appeals, where Rana has appealed against the order by a U.S. District Court in California that denied his writ of *habeas corpus*. Rana, 63, jailed in Los Angeles, filed the writ in May challenging the court order, which acceded to the request of the U.S. government that the 26/11 terror accused be extradited to India.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Hathras stampede toll hits 121; organiser pins blame on 'anti-social elements'

Ishita Mishra
HATHRAS

With the death toll in the Hathras *satsang* stampede touching 121, Sooraj Pal Singh, alias Narayan Sakar Vishwa Hari, the self-styled godman who was heading the prayer meeting, said a ruckus was created by "anti-social elements" after he left the event.

"I express deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and pray to god for the speedy recovery of the injured," Mr. Pal Singh said, adding that he will take legal action against the "anti-social elements".

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who on Wednesday visited the spot, ordered a judicial probe into the incident. He did not rule out the possibility of a "conspiracy" behind the stampede, and said the accused will be punished.

"A judicial probe by a retired High Court judge will be conducted into the incident," Mr. Adityanath said after meeting the injured and the kin of the deceased. The Chief Minister asked if the stampede was not an accident, then "whose conspiracy is this?" "All these will be probed," he said.

FIR against aide

The police have filed an FIR against a close aide of Mr. Pal Singh but did not name the godman as an accused. The FIR said followers of the preacher had thrown slippers and other belongings of the victims in nearby farmlands to destroy evidence.

On why Mr. Pal Singh, also known as Bhole Baba, was not named as an accused by the police, Mr. Adityanath said prima facie, the case has been filed against those who had applied for permission for the event. "All those who are guilty will be punished," he said.

A villager who lost his mother, wife and daughter in the stampede being consoled after their burial at Hathras in U.P. R.V. MOORTHY

Kin continue search

The Hindu Bureau
HATHRAS

The tragedy of the Hathras stampede kept unfolding at district hospitals and healthcare centres here on Wednesday as relatives of those dead and missing were seen frantically looking for their near and dear ones. "The number of dead in this incident is far more than what is being told by the government," said an eyewitness to the incident.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 12

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12
EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

Student stabs to death security guard at college gate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Jai Kishan Roy

A security guard of a private college was stabbed to death allegedly by a student after he was not allowed to enter the college in an inebriated state on Wednesday.

The deceased Jai Kishan Roy, 52, was deployed at the main gate of Sindhi College, Kempapura, and was assigned security duty on the annual day of the college. The accused, Bhargav Jyothi Burman, 22, was stopped by Roy who refused him entry citing that he was drunk. A heated argument ensued following which the accused left and returned after purchasing a kitchen knife from a shop, allegedly stabbed Roy multiple times, and fled when he collapsed and started bleeding profusely. The staff and other students shifted him to a hospital where the doctors declared him as brought dead.

Meanwhile, other guards chased and caught Burman, before the Amruthahalli police took him into custody. The police have taken his blood samples and sent them to the FSL.

Roy hailed from Bihar and was working in the college for the past 10 years. He was assigned different jobs, but as it was annual day at the college, he was deployed at the main gate to check on visitors. His family alleged that the management's negligence led to the murder as Roy was not given any safety measures. The management was not available for a response.

Exhilarating Euros knocking it out of the park

The second phase of the continental showpiece has produced it all — stoppage-time bicycle kick, shock headers in opening moments, fingertip stops to win the game, controversial VAR calls to alter the course of the match, and an unprecedented hat-trick of penalty saves

GETTY IMAGES

Bhavin Shivaa

International knockout football, there's nothing like it. Stature holds no weight here, it disintegrates and fades away into oblivion.

Tactics take the backseat. Pulverising passion, oceans of emotion, gut-wrenching nerves, the hopes of an entire nation – these are the driving forces in the playoff rounds.

David, Goliath, Butch, Sundance, it doesn't matter. It is all about these 90 minutes – a one-off tie with the highest of stakes and you have to leave it all on the pitch.

It is not the team that is most structurally sound nor the side with the highest possession that progresses. But it is the outfit that is the hungriest for the win, which will go to the ends of the Earth to give to its country the intoxicating ecstasy of progression that will prosper.

The best teams win leagues; not so much the case in Cup football. Knockout football, however, is decided by moments of magic, by players who embrace the pressure and step up, the biggest of names on the grandest of stages.

Stoppage-time bicycle kick, shock headers in the game's opening moments, fingertip stops to win the game, controversial VAR calls to alter the course of the match, and an unprecedented hat-trick of penalty saves.

This is what elimination football promises, and it is exactly what an exhilarating round-of-16 delivered at the Euro 2024.

The prelude

There was drama in *Deutschland* well before the first elimination game even kicked off. There was an imbalance in the scales. One half was laden with several title-winners like an ornate necklace sporting several beautiful stones.

The other, crafted like a pendant flaunting one dazzling diamond, a centrepiece, hogging the spotlight from its supporting acts.

Germany was set to play, arguably and personally, the tournament's strongest unit in a revamped Spain in the quarterfinal. Euro 2016 winner, Portugal was also on the same side of the draw alongside powerhouses France and Belgium.

On the other end of the draw, it seemed like a straight route to the final for underperforming England, with a Netherlands team that came third in the 2014 World Cup and defending champion Italy also present.

The draw also had its fair share of dark horses with a Slovakia side that beat Belgium, Ralf Rangnick's transformed Austria, and spirited debutantes Georgia, off the high of a sensational 2-0 win against Portugal.

Swiss affair

The stage was set. The Olympstadion Berlin prepared to host the first pre-quarterfinal clash, and boy was it a cracker of a game!

Italy – which finished second only thanks to Mattia Zaccagni's superb last-minute leveller against Modric's Croatia – up against underdogs Switzerland which went unbeaten in the group stages and would have finished top of the group with three wins in three had it not been for an equaliser from Nicholas Fullkrug in the dying moments to clinch first place for the host.

Murat Yakin's aggressive approach meant Switzerland had the upper hand right from the start. The side deservedly took the lead after Ruben Vargas' pass from the edge of the box was cleanly volleyed into the bottom corner by Remo Freuler.

Italy skipper Gianluigi Donnarumma's heroics in goal saved the title-holder's blushes as he produced a stunning save to deflect Fabian Reidler's freekick onto the post moments before the whistle blew for half-time.

Assister then turned scorer as Vargas sent a mouth-watering shot curling into the top-right corner to book Switzerland's berth in the last eight, ending Italian hopes in what was a lacklustre performance from Luciano Spalletti's men.

The *Azzurri's* closest sight of goal came when Swiss defender Fabian Schar almost headed the ball into his own net with custodian Yann Sommer left watching as the ball hit the post and was cleared out of harm's way.

Italy's loss marked the third successive Euros where the reigning champion bowed out in the last 16, following Spain in 2016 and Portugal in 2020.

"If we failed, we failed. And we failed because of my team selection. And in terms of the way I conducted myself, it's never down to the players," said Spalletti.

While the Euro 2020 winner crashed out in its first knockout game, the runner-up barely scraped through to the quarterfinals in a tense encounter against a Slovakian team that was playing in the European knockout stages for only the second time as an independent nation.

Cometh the hour, cometh the man

The undeniable favourites going into the tournament, the Three Lions were staring at yet another unsuccessful outing as England went behind in the 25th minute.

Slovakia put Gareth Southgate's men in a chokehold in the game's early minutes, coming agonisingly close to bulging the net twice, and the constant attacking pressure finally bore fruit when David Strelec found himself with an abundance of space and time to play a perfectly weighted pass to Ivan Schranz who buried it in the bottom corner to score his third goal of the tournament.

The star-studded English outfit went into half-time humbled by the 45th-ranked Slovakia. The second 45 minutes were better for England, relatively at least. Phil Foden did manage to put the ball in the back of the net within five minutes of the restart, but the goal was ruled out for offside.

Southgate needed a spark to revive England's title charge. In search, the English manager brought on attacking dynamites Cole Palmer and Eberechi Eze in the 66th and 84th minutes hoping to effect change.

While there was a more direct approach, the increased threat did not materialise.

He later brought on Ivan Toney for Foden in the fourth minute of added time, a bittersweet consolation, it seemed for the Brentford forward.

It looked like it was all over. The headlines were all typed out. 'English tears, Slovakian jubilation'. An upset for the ages was within touching distance for Slovakia.

And there it was – a speck of gold in a barrel of dust. A deep throw-in from Kyle Walker into the box in the fifth minute of stoppage time, a Marc Guehi flick backwards with his head, hoping, searching, praying for someone to be on the receiving end.

True greats shine in the darkest of hours, and how he did! Like a phoenix rising from the ashes. Number ten on his back. "Who else?", he mouthed as he put his arms out and celebrated in trademark fashion. Reminiscent of that David Beckham free-kick versus Greece. The Golden Boy, Jude Bellingham took to the air to execute an inch-perfect bicycle-kick and restore parity, as he rescued his country from the depths of despair.

From there it was England's game to lose. Slovakia, still recovering from Bellingham's devastating blow, went behind in the first minute of extra time.

A flick-on from substitute Toney following a scuffed Eze volley was enough for captain Harry Kane as he headed England home and into the last eight.

Slovakia did respond well, but it wasn't enough as Kane & Co. held on to their lead for dear life as the full-time whistle blew. England was through. Milan Skriniar's men left their hearts out on the field and deserve to walk with their heads held high.

Turkish delight

Everyone loves an underdog story, and the final round-of-16 fixture witnessed two of the tournament's biggest ones battle it out as Rangnick's riveting Austrian side square off against Vincenzo Montella's men.

Austria impressed everyone after it beat the formidable Netherlands to top a group that also had 2018 World Cup winner France.

Turkiye qualified in second behind Portugal on goal difference after a solid group stage show, which also included a 3-1 win over Georgia.

It didn't take long for the drama to unfold as an Arda Guler corner fell right in front of the Austrian six-yard box, a few ricochets here and there and Merih Demiral thundered the ball into goal in the 57th second – the second fastest goal in the Euros.

Austria responded almost immediately as Christoph Baumgartner came close twice in the next couple of minutes. It was shaping up to be another quintessential international knockout fixture.

This was never a match-up that promised compact defending or an impenetrable structure. Though, it did have in-store end-to-end football where chaos was the currency.

It was a beautiful anarchy.

Since going down, or from the first minute if you want, Austria tore Turkiye apart. Attack after attack, Rangnick's men hurled everything they had at the Turks.

Against the run of play, the same duo combined once again for Turkiye's second as Demiral headed home another goal to give his team some much-needed breathing space.

The game resumed in similar fashion, and a vital touch by substitute Michael Gregoritsch in the 66th minute from an Austrian corner halved the deficit at last.

Baris Yilmaz was in on goal in the last seconds of added time but a terrific save by goalkeeper Patrick Pentz kept Austria in the game.

The ball went up the field and was put into the Turkish box by Alexander Prass, and in, potentially, the most important save of his career, Mert Gunok produced a heart-stopping save off of Baumgartner's header from close range to confirm Turkiye's place in the elite eight.

Amidst the incessant Leipzig rains, Mert Gunok stopped time, and Austria, to cement his place as a cult hero.

It was excruciating for Austria but that is the beauty of international football. Rangnick's men, much the better team, were on a flight back home after two moments of Turkish delight.

Spain too hot to handle

On the other side of the draw, Spain utterly outclassed Georgia despite going behind in the 18th minute as Robin Le Normand was unable to get out of the way of a dangerous cross.

Goals from Rodri, Nico Williams, Dani Olmo, and Fabian Ruiz were enough to crush any glimmers of hope Georgia may have had.

In a tournament where all the big names have been misfiring, Alvaro Morata's men have been impeccable.

The tiki-taka style of play that has been the hallmark of the Spanish football for long has been replaced by free-flowing, flashy football best exemplified by young guns Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams.

The quality Spain possesses combined with the sheer dominance it has shown makes for a combination that seems unstoppable.

Germany will be looking to put an end to the fiery *La Roja*, but chances look slim as Spain seems favourites to take the reign once again.

Could we be seeing a sequel to the Spanish era of 2008-2012?

The usual suspects – Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, and France – all progressed to the quarterfinals, with Belgium's golden generation crashing out, maybe for the last time, in a 0-1 loss to France.

The European Championship has a long way to go before the final in Berlin on July 14th, but the way the first round of knockouts has gone, we seem to be in for a tournament for the history books.

THE GIST

- The best teams win leagues; not so much the case in Cup football. Knockout football, however, is decided by moments of magic
- The 2024 European Championship also proved the same
- Heavyweight Belgium got knocked out by Mbappe's France while Italy was shown the door by a spirited Switzerland

KSCPCR takes up case against couple who photographed child in jail clothes bearing Darshan's UTP number

Summons will be served on the parents after the cybercrime police submit a report, says child rights commission chief

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has taken up a *suo moto* case against a couple who photographed their child wearing clothes with the undertrial prisoner (UTP) number 6106 given to actor Darshan. The actor is in jail in the Renukaswamy murder case. The photo went viral on social media.

A sources said that two such cases have been reported in Bengaluru city and Bengaluru rural district. The commission filed a complaint with the Superintendent of Police, cybercrime, to investigate the matter thoroughly and take action against those who made the photograph viral on social media, and submit a report to the commission.

The photograph of the child wearing clothes with undertrial prisoner number 6106 went viral on social media

"A fan of Darshan photographed his child dressed in jail clothes along with the UTP number 6106, and made the photo viral. We do not call children accused or criminals even if they do wrong without knowing it. We call them children in conflict with the law. We should provide good environment to the children and should not impose our likes/dislikes on them," the commission said in a letter.

After Darshan was sent to jail in the murder case, his nicknames, movie dialogues, UTP and barrack number went viral on social media. Some hardcore fans are getting them tattooed on their bodies and as stickers on their vehicles. Some film producers have even registered these as movie titles with the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, K. Naganna Gowda, chairperson of the commission, said: "It is not right for children who have done nothing wrong to wear clothes with UTP numbers and have their photographs taken. It is not right that it has gone viral on social media. Therefore, a *suo moto* case has been filed against the couple." "After the cybercrime police's report, summons will be served to the parents," he added.

Shashidhar Kosambi, member of the commission, said: "This is a clear violation of Section 74 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. According to this section, disclosure of identity of children is prohibited. So, no one can display, publicise, or use the privacy of a child. As soon as the parents are found, we will summon them and investigate thoroughly. If the charge is proved, six months imprisonment or ₹2 lakh penalty or both may be imposed. The public should be sensitive when it comes to the matter of children; displaying, broadcasting, sharing and saving such posts is an offence."

State to restart 3,800 bus routes suspended during pandemic

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Shakti scheme created a demand for buses. From June 2023 to June 2024, women took 234,40,78,298 free trips on RTC buses.

The Karnataka Transport Department is planning to restart 3,800 bus routes across the State that were suspended during COVID-19. The Shakti scheme, which provides free travel for women on State-run buses, has also created a demand for buses on these discontinued routes.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said, "Along with restarting 3,800 bus routes, we are planning to add 10,000 trips across the State. To facilitate these new routes, we will purchase 5,800 buses. In the last year, we inducted 2,236 buses and refurbished 970 buses." Mr. Reddy added.

Mr. Reddy said owing to the pandemic, the previous government stopped several routes and did not induct new buses into the fleet, resulting in a significant shortage of buses and causing transport problems for the people. "We are now inducting new buses into the fleet so that passengers don't have problems," he said.

Karnataka's Shakti scheme marked its first anniversary on June 11. While the scheme empowered women's travel, the lack of adequate number of buses and poor connectivity remain significant concerns. The Congress announced the scheme in its manifesto for the 2023 Assembly polls as part of five guarantees. These are believed to have contributed to Congress securing a comfortable majority and forming government in the State.

From June 11, 2023, to June 24, 2024, women made 234,40,78,298 free trips on RTC buses. During this period, the cost to the State exchequer was ₹5,703.70 crore.

One voice

Schoolchildren taking part in the Environment Day 2024 rally on the theme 'Save water' in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

HC sets aside appointment of Basappa as Mysore university Registrar (Evaluation)

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has set aside the appointment of Basappa, an associate professor, as Registrar (Evaluation) of the University of Mysore.

The State government had appointed him to the post based on a note issued by the Chief Minister in March 2024, contrary to the opinion given by the Vice-Chancellor stating that Mr. Basappa is not "a senior faculty" member for posting him as Registrar (Evaluation) in terms of Section 18(1) of the Karnataka State Universities Act, 2000.

Justice B.M. Shyam Prasad passed the order while

allowing a petition filed by K.M. Mahadevan, who was working as Registrar (Evaluation) prior to Mr. Basappa's posting to the post on March 15, 2024.

Note issued by CM

The court noted that though the government had opened the file, initiated based on a note issued by the Chief Minister for appointing Mr. Basappa to the post of Registrar (Evaluation), the file was closed in February 2024 after the Vice-Chancellor gave his opinion that Mr. Basappa has no eligibility in law to hold the post.

However, the court pointed out, the file was reopened in March as the Chief Minister issued another note for his appointment while recommending appointments for Bangalore University on the eve of the commencement of the code of conduct for the Lok Sabha elections.

'No public interest'

Observing that "neither public interest nor administrative interest is established" in the appointment of Mr. Basappa to the post, the court said that "in such cases, there must be judicial intervention or otherwise the universities' institutional autonomy could be in jeopardy". There were 58 professors in Mysore university, the court noted.

As the Vice-Chancellor had said that Mr. Basappa was appointed as Chairman of the Department of Studies in Organic Chemistry only because the post of professor was not occupied in that department, the court said that Mr. Basappa fortuitously occupied the position of Chairman of the department and that by itself would not make him "a senior member of the faculty".

Karnataka will see 10% increase in tourists if we educate them about our art and culture: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"Luxury tourism has become the focus in today's age. It is important to educate tourists about our art and culture and if we inculcate this, I believe that Karnataka will see a 10% increase in the number of tourists," said H.K. Patil, Minister of Tourism, Law and Parliamentary Affairs, on Wednesday at a workshop organised to discuss the implementation of Tourism Policy 2024-2029.

Along with officials of different wings of the Tourism Department, several stakeholders, including members of Karnataka Tourism Society, hoteliers, and homestay owners, were present at the workshop.

Tourism Department holds workshop with stakeholders for implementation of Tourism Policy 2024-2029

"The workshop aims to create discussions and generate suggestions from the stakeholders to readjust the parameters to suit the industrial needs of the time," said Ram Prasath Manohar, director, Tourism Department.

The Karnataka Tourism Policy 2020-2026 received applications for the development of wayside amenities, wellness centre and agri tourism projects, said Salma Fahim, Principal Secretary, Tourism. The policy received 100 applications in this regard with an estimated total investment of ₹1,353,68 crore.

The stakeholders stressed on how it was important for the policy to go beyond the discussion stage and be implemented. "Policies can only be considered beneficial if it is implemented not just on paper but in reality. The benefits have been given to us but only in papers," said a member of the Coorg Homestay Association.

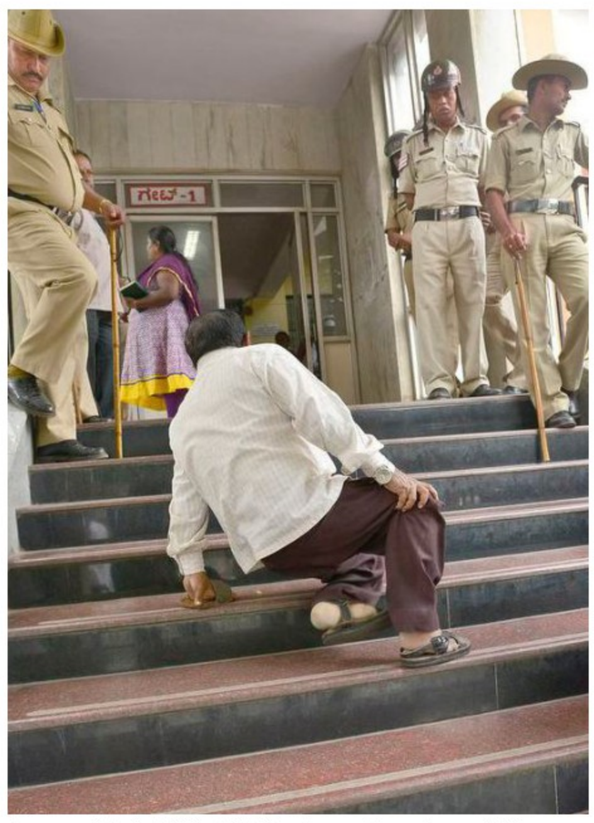
State govt. fills posts reserved for persons with disabilities, but problems persist

Abhilekh Baruah
Aasaavari Mohana Gobburu
BENGALURU

Shobha V. (name changed), a senior assistant in the Hubballi Electricity Supply Company (Hescom), uses her personal wheelchair at all times. Sitting in the office of the Karnataka State Disabled and Caregivers' Federation in Bengaluru, she spoke about being a person with disability in a government office. Her colleagues had once told her that she did not have the potential to work like 'a normal human being'. Her determination had kept her going through the years despite the occasional taunts.

According to data provided by the Disability Commission, the Human Resource Management System (HRMS) report of 2022 showed that the government of Karnataka employed 249 persons with disabilities in Group A jobs, 688 in Group B, 10,038 in Group C, and 927 in Group D jobs. Karnataka has successfully employed persons with disabilities in various government jobs keeping with the reservation percentage specified in the Right to Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act.

Das Suryawanshi, State Commissioner for Disabilities Act, said, "We have achieved the 5% reservation category mentioned in the RPWD Act for Groups C and D, while we have achieved the 4% mark in terms of Group A and B."



Persons with disabilities highlight the problem of accessibility, even in the Vidhana Soudha and the General Post Office in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Activists allege that grievance meetings held by the Disability Commission have become irregular

However, for people like Ms. Shobha, work conditions at these offices are not optimal. One of the major problems is the lack of washrooms for persons with disabilities.

"Going to the washroom is a torture, I have stopped drinking water so that I don't have to use the toilet," Ms. Shobha said.

The other problem is that of accessibility, even in the Vidhana Soudha and the General Post Office (GPO) in Bengaluru.

Activists said the focus of the government should go beyond just filling reserved posts. Viswesh Sekhar, an advocate and disability rights activist, congratulated Karnataka for meeting the reservation target, but insisted that the quality of these jobs also matter. "The majority of the jobs are in Groups C and D. It really serves no great purpose because it is not really empowerment of persons with disabilities," he said.

V.S Basavaraju, ex-commissioner of the Disability Commission, highlighted that initiatives to facilitate intellectually challenged persons are lacking. "Investment in terms of upskilling persons with disabilities is very poor," he added.

When asked about skill development among persons with disabilities. Mr. Suryawanshi said, "To improve education and skill development to train persons with disabilities for future employment, we have exempted those with 25% disability from the entrance exams at State institutions. Previously, only those with 40% disability were exempt from this rule."

Activists allege that the grievance meetings organised by the Disability Commission at the district level have become irregular. "Statutory grievances meeting was to be conducted on the third Monday every month, and chaired by Deputy Commissioners, as per a government order. However, it has not been conducted regularly for the last two years, and only three meetings have been held till now," said Arpuda Rajan, office secretary at the Karnataka State Disabled and Caregivers' Federation.

Pension for caregivers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Disability Commission is in the process of identifying beneficiaries for the payment of maintenance allowance for caregivers of persons with disabilities.

"We will be paying a pension of ₹1,000 for the welfare of caregivers. We are among the few States to have implemented this scheme. For now, we will be paying this allowance only for those who have Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, and muscular dystrophy," said Das Suryawanshi, State Commissioner for Disabilities Act.

The list will soon include a host of other disabilities, like spinal cord injury.

However, persons with disabilities and caregivers said that this amount would not cover the expenses they incur. Viswesh Sekhar argued that the sum is meagre, considering the expenses incurred in taking care of persons with severe or even benchmark disabilities.

MoA signed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru, on Tuesday signed an Memorandum of Agreement with National Seeds Corporation (NSC). IIHR director Tusar Kanti Behera exchanged the MoA with M. Ahmed Raza, regional manager, NSC.

IIHR, in a release, said this MoA allows NSC large-scale multiplication of quality and disease resistant varieties and hybrids of horticultural crops developed by ICAR-IIHR scientists.

Awareness rally marks plastic bag-free day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On the occasion of International Plastic Bag-Free Day, an awareness rally on the ban of plastic bags was organised in Munireddypalya on Wednesday. The event was inaugurated by BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath.

After flagging off the rally, he emphasised on the need for complete ban on single-use plastic throughout the city. He urged officials to spread awareness among citizens and traders to use only cloth or paper bags.

Officials distributed pamphlets and cloth bags to street vendors and shopkeepers. Coconut water sellers were provided with paper straws and were advised not to use plastic products. The public was encouraged to bring reusable bags from home or purchase locally available cloth bags.

Those found using banned plastic bags will initially receive a warning. If repeated, fines will be imposed, officials said.

Spiral galaxies evolved 4 billion years sooner than expected

An important idea in astronomy is that as the young universe cooled, it accumulated hot gas that clumped and gravitated to form galaxies. As these early galaxies cooled, they formed hot, thick disks that ultimately became thinner and formed spiral arms. A new finding mucks up this theory

Debdutta Paul

A new study has revealed more spiral galaxies in the universe's youth than astronomers had expected.

The universe is about 13.8 billion years old and is home to different kinds of galaxies, from spiral to elliptical and those with or without bulges. Astronomers previously believed spiral galaxies formed about 6 billion years ago, but a new study by a group of astronomers from the University of Missouri in the U.S. has called this belief into question. It was published on June 11 in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

While the universe's younger galaxies have tended to be spiral, the older ones have a variety of shapes. Astronomers study them to understand how they formed and evolved. But studying the older galaxies is more difficult because the light from them is fainter.

A Hubble Space Telescope image of the spiral galaxy Messier 77. NASA

Not just hot air

An important idea in astronomy is that as the universe cooled down from a dense plasma state, it contained more and more hot gas. They formed clumps of matter that eventually gravitated to become galaxies. These early galaxies had irregular shapes and lacked disks. But as they cooled as well, they formed hot, thick disks that later became thinner and finally spiral 'arms' – a process that took billions of years.

This theory is now suspect. "Our work shows that this cooling down and spiral formation occur around the same cosmic time," said Vicki Kuhn, a graduate student at the University of Missouri and a member of the study.

Astronomers routinely see stars forming in real-time but since all the galaxies have already formed, they use a sort of astronomical archaeology to study them. "We don't see proto-galaxies," said Girish Kulkarni of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, who was not involved in the study. "What we do then is study how the galaxies evolve. The spiral galaxy fraction is one way to do this biography."

Seeing further into the past

The first step is to use light of the infrared and optical wavelengths to detect galaxies in the early universe. Since older galaxies are harder to detect, we need powerful telescopes. Ideally, astronomers would like to observe light emitted when the universe was around 500 million years old, when the galaxies were thought to be forming.

NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, launched in 2021, has helped astronomers gaze much deeper into the universe's past than before. The University of Missouri team used the telescope to study a cohort of 873 galaxies individually and identified at least 216 spiral galaxies. Some of them dated to 1.5 billion years after the universe's birth.

For the study, all six authors went through each image to classify it as spiral or non-spiral. Prerana Biswas, a postdoctoral researcher at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, who wasn't involved in the study, said the method is crude but shows the result is free of human bias. Abhijeet Borkar, a research scientist at the Astronomical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, agreed. He wasn't involved in the study either.

But while Dr. Biswas said future studies should use automatic algorithms to spot spiral galaxies, Dr. Borkar said there are few alternatives to this sort of verification. "Even for invoking machine learning or neural networks, this is the first step. The only way to improve is to have a larger number of astronomers" going through the data.

An underestimate comes to light

The researchers then compared the number of spiral galaxies to the total number of galaxies. They found that between 3 billion and 7 billion years after the Big Bang, the fraction of galaxies with spiral shapes increased from about 8% to 48%. Previous observations had indicated an increase from 5% to 30% instead. "It's much greater than what was known before," Dr. Kulkarni said.

Dr. Borkar was in fact taken aback by the fact that spiral-armed galaxies were fully formed so early. The new observation shows the number of spiral galaxies is high as well as that they increased in number as the universe evolved.

Dr. Kulkarni explained how astronomers study the formation of galaxies. They develop mathematical models on powerful computers and let them evolve with time. While dark matter and gravity exert dominant influences on the universe's evolution, they aren't enough to produce galaxies. So astrophysicists include hot, dense gases in the simulation. These simulations have thus far matched what astronomers have observed.

As the universe ages, the gases cool and clump together, and stars form. As the stars evolve, they give rise to supernovae, which create most of the elements we have on the earth today. Some black holes are formed, too, and a few of them sit at the centres of galaxies and exert their own influence.

> Astronomers would like to observe light emitted when the universe was 500 million years old, at the point when the galaxies were thought to be forming

From simplistic to complicated

Given the uncertainty in many of these models' parameters, astrophysicists also use observations to refine them – and such refinements are often crucial.

The Hubble Space Telescope is famed for its clear images of distant celestial objects and astrophysicists have used it to refine many models. But then some studies found signs that the early universe had many galaxies with disks. Astronomers think such galaxies were actively forming new stars.

The authors of the present study didn't compare their observations with the simulations, however, which has puzzled Dr. Kulkarni.

He also said the link between these sophisticated simulations and the present-data may not be easy to decipher. All experts agreed astronomers must carefully reexamine the existing framework of observational data and theoretical studies.

"The earlier scenario was more simple," Dr. Borkar said. Now "the theories need to be made more complicated." He added that it's possible that while stars are formed in some regions of galaxies, hot gases could be present simultaneously in other regions.

'No one knows'

The new findings could also affect what astronomers understand about the rate of the formation of stars in the universe. For earth-like planets to form around stars, spiral galaxies should host a sufficient amount of elements heavier than iron in their spiral arms. When heavier stars die and blow up as supernovae, they throw out these elements into the arms. But if something else gets in the way of star formation – such as the influence of black holes – then not enough stars will form in the first place.

As the universe aged, spiral galaxies became more populous even around the time star formation peaked. Over time, spiral gases have less and less gas in their spiral arms, slowing the formation of more stars. But collisions between galaxies, like the one predicted to occur between our Milky Way and its neighbouring Andromeda in about 5 billion years, could restart this process into a second life while also creating an elliptical galaxy.

Overall, our view of the universe's cycle of forming galaxies, stars, and earth-like planets seems to be getting more complicated. What does it imply for our understanding of galaxy formation? Dr. Biswas said, "I can safely say that no one knows."

(Debdutta Paul is a science writer at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, Bengaluru, and a freelance science journalist.)

A sign directs travellers to the start of the '1947 UFO Crash Site Tours'. ERIC DRAPER/AP

UFO Day rekindles the conspiracy theory that refuses to die

Associated Press

A former U.S. Air Force intelligence officer said last summer the country's government had a programme to retrieve and reverse-engineer unidentified flying objects (UFOs). The Mexican Congress held an unprecedented session in September during which supposed mummies were presented as "nonhuman beings that are not part of our terrestrial evolution." And NASA now has a director of research for "unidentified anomalous phenomena".

The Pentagon denied the former officer's claims. Mexican researchers said the mummies "made no sense". And a NASA study found no evidence of extra terrestrials. Yet there's never been a better time to mark World UFO Day.

The day has its roots in the so-called Roswell Incident on July 2, 1947. On that date, something crashed at a ranch in New Mexico. There were reports the U.S. military had recovered a "flying disc". But officials later said the debris was merely the remnants of a high-altitude weather balloon.

The material found near Roswell consisted of foil-wrapped fabric, wooden sticks, rubber pieces, and small I-beams with strange markings on them.

The Air Force investigated the incident in 1994 and concluded the supposed alien spacecraft was likely a secret military balloon designed to monitor Soviet nuclear testing.

Retired Air Force Maj. David Grusch testified to Congress that the U.S. is hiding a programme to retrieve and reverse engineer unidentified flying objects

A 2021 U.S. government report reviewed 144 sightings of aircraft or other devices apparently flying at mysterious speeds or trajectories. It found no extraterrestrial links but drew few other conclusions and called for better data collection. Lawmakers from both U.S. political parties have said UFOs are a national security concern. But the sightings are usually fleeting. Some appear for no more than an instant on camera – and then sometimes end up distorted by the camera lens.

Ronald Moultrie, the undersecretary of defence for intelligence, said during a 2022 hearing the Pentagon was trying to destigmatise the issue and encourage pilots and other military personnel to report anything unusual they see.

Then things got a little strange last year.

During a congressional hearing in late July, retired Air Force Maj. David Grusch testified that the U.S. is concealing a longstanding programme that retrieves and reverse engineers unidentified flying objects.

The Pentagon denied Grusch's claims of a cover-up and denied the existence of any such programme. It also released a study in March that had examined the many UFO sightings over nearly the past century and found no evidence of aliens or extraterrestrial intelligence.

The Pentagon's report arrived about six months after NASA released a report on UFOs, which reached the same conclusions.

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson did acknowledge another earth-like planet could exist within the billions of galaxies in the universe. When pressed by reporters on whether the U.S. or other governments are hiding aliens or otherworldly spaceships, he said: "Show me the evidence."

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Like it or not, you're accelerating

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

The Sun exerts a gravitational force on the earth. As a result, what is the value of the earth's acceleration through space (in SI units)?

QUESTION 2

When an object is subjected to a constant and sustained acceleration, it is perceived to have weight. In the absence of this acceleration, if we say this object weighs 1 kg (for example), we really mean its ____. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

'*g*' stands for gravitational force equivalent. An object experiencing 1 *g* of force on the earth (at sea level along the equator) will be accelerated by 9.8 m/s^2. What's the threshold in terms of g beyond which a human will start to experience dizziness?

QUESTION 4

From the 1940s, the U.S. Air Force ran a series of tests to understand the effects of extreme acceleration on the human body. The most frequent volunteer on these tests was an officer named X, and his findings as well as the injuries he suffered informed many aspects of U.S. aerospace missions. After the tests he became known as the "fastest man on earth". Name X.

QUESTION 5

What is the force (in terms of *g*) that flight recorders onboard large civilian aeroplanes are expected to be able to survive so that they can be certified for use?

Answers to July 2 quiz:

1. Russian city over which a meteorite exploded in 2013
– **Ans: Chelyabinsk**
2. The entity whose deity among the Evenki is Agda
– **Ans: Thunder**
3. Russian scientist who led the 1921 and the 1927 expeditions
– **Ans: Leonid Kulik**
4. Name for asteroids once in the atmosphere
– **Ans: Bolide**
5. Occasion designated by the U.N. for June 30
– **Ans: International Asteroid Day**

Visual: **Didymos**

First contact: P.N. Moorthy | Arpit Kumar | K.N. Viswanathan

Visual: In 2003, this Swedish racer suffered the highest g-force ever survived by a human, 214 g, during a race on the Texas Motor Speedway. Name him. PSPARROT

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

INBRIEF

Water adalat to be held today

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will hold water adalat on Thursday between 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to address issues related to water billing, delay in providing water supply and sanitary connections. It will be held at the following sub-divisions: East 1-1: BEML Layout, near ITPL, 4th Main Road, Kundalahalli Main Road; East 2-1 1st Block, 9th D Main, Service Road, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar; South East 1: Swami Vivekananda Road, opposite Lido Mall, Halasur; South East 4: 10th main Road, 7th Cross, behind Indiranagar Club, HAL 2nd stage; West 1-1: Ground Floor, Arkavathi Bhavan, 5th Main, 9th Cross, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, West 2-1: 5th Stage, 1st Main, BEML Layout, R.R. Nagar; North West 1: 4th Cross, Rajajinagar 1st N Block, behind Vidyavardhaka School; North West -3: Ground Floor, 7th Main, MEI Layout, Hesarghatta Road; Central 1-1: Millers Road, High Grounds; North East 1: Room 115, 1st Floor, Suvarna Bhavan, 18th Cross, Margosa Road, Malleswaram; and North 1-1: 8th Main Road, D Block, Sahakar Nagar.

For issues regarding water supply, the public may contact helpline number: 1916. Complaints can also be send on WhatsApp no. 8762228888.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the June 4 issue, we have a photo feature that looks at the city's pothole problem. The persistent issue has been life-threatening to motorists, especially during monsoon. Despite moderate rain this season, commuters have witnessed multiple potholes across the city.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (July 4, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- An overview of the French elections **bit.ly/frenchelectionstwo**
- Universe had spiral galaxies 4 billion years sooner than expected: study **bit.ly/spiralgalaxiesuniverse**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

After issuing ₹1 crore TDR notice, BBMP takes over part of palace property for road widening

Calculation of Transferable Development Rights compensation was done by BBMP based on Bangalore Palace (Acquisition and Transfer) Act, 1996

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The new compound wall of the Bangalore Palace ground on Jayamahal Road. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has taken possession of a portion of the Bangalore Palace property for the road widening project after the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) issued a notice for Transferable Development Rights (TDR) compensation.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath told *The Hindu:* "We have taken possession of the land for the project. A few days ago, the BDA issued a notice to the property owner to provide ₹1 crore as TDR compensation. But no one received the TDR, even as BDA went to physically hand it over."

In the notice, it is mentioned that in case no one receives the notice, the authorities are deemed to take possession of the land for widening the road stretches on Ballari road and Jayamahal road. The BBMP has now officially taken possession of the land, Mr. Giri Nath informed.

Another senior BBMP official said on Tuesday that the BDA first took possession of 15 acres and 17.5 guntas of the palace property and later, it was handed over to the BBMP. While the TDR calculation was done by the BBMP based on the Bangalore Palace (Acquisition and Transfer) Act, 1996, the BBMP has no authority to issue TDR.

"We handed over the necessary documents to the BDA and they issued the TDR. As property owners of the litigated prime land have not received the notice, the same was sent by post. The notice was enclosed with the copy of the TDR to inform them that the TDR is ready," the official said.

Earlier, there was confusion that the government had to pay ₹1,400 crore compensation. This would have come true if the value of the land for compensation was calculated based on guidance value. However, in the case of palace property, the government in 1996 enacted a law for acquiring the land and the same has been applied for this property too.

The official said under this Act, 472 acres of palace land is worth ₹11 crore, and 15 acres is valued at ₹60 lakh and 1.5 times the sum would come to around ₹1 crore. As the matter is also in the Supreme Court, the BBMP will inform the apex court that the civic body has complied with the direction of issuing the TDR.

Student, male friend found dead in lake near NICE road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 20-year-old girl student and her 25-year-old male friend, who were missing since three days, were found dead in a lake near NICE road in Talaghattapura on Wednesday.

Anjana, pursuing BBA and a resident of Anjanapura, and Srikanth, 25, a resident of Talaghattapura, were said to be in a relationship, which was opposed by their families.

They were said to be in a relationship, which was opposed by their families

The duo left behind a suicide note owning responsibility for the extreme step. Both families had filed a missing complaint with the police. The incident came to light when passers-by found the bodies floating in the lake.

The police, along with fire and emergency services personnel, rushed to the spot and pulled out the bodies. Anjana had also left a video message on her mobile phone stating that they were facing severe opposition for their relationship and they had decided to end their lives.

The Talaghattapura police have registered a case of unnatural death and are awaiting the post mortem.

(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani on Ph.: 104 for help).

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Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence (SSSUHE)

BEST EMERGING PRIVATE UNIVERSITY

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Srikanta Murthy K and Registrar Dr. D Hanumanth Rao Naidu receiving the 'Excellence Award'

Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence (SSSUHE) has been awarded GOLD in the '*Emerging Private/Deemed University*' category at the prestigious Economic Times Education Excellence Awards 2024 held on 6th June in New Delhi. This award is in recognition of an emerging university's commitment to academic excellence, research, industry partnerships, student achievement, community engagement and future growth potential.

SSSUHE was established in 2019 as a State Private University at Kalaburagi in Karnataka by Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai, a global humanitarian and spiritual leader. The vision of the University is to provide FREE of cost, quality higher education of global standards based on ancient Indian ethos and to develop individuals with competent hands, brilliant minds and compassionate hearts for the universal welfare. The University's motto, '*yogaḥ karmasu kauśalam* – perfection in action is yoga,' reflects its commitment to achieving excellence in all areas.

SSSUHE provides completely FREE of cost quality education, lodging, boarding and all other daily essentials to students, with a special focus on rural youth. Currently, over 70% of students come from below the poverty line and about 32% are first-generation literates. The University's curriculum extends beyond traditional education, encompassing Vedic Studies, Performing Arts, Medical and Paramedical Education, Agriculture, Mental Health, Yoga and Sports.

In short span of five years of its establishment, the University has achieved several milestones. University established India's first free private rural medical college, the Sri Madhusudan Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (SMSIMSR), which was inaugurated by the Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in March 2023. Smt. Droupadi Murmu, the Honourable President of India, graced the second convocation of SSSUHE in July 2023. The University was recognised as the Greatest Brand 2023 at the 20th Edition of the Asia-Africa Business & Social Forum in Dubai hosted by AsiaOne. Notably, SSSUHE has signed MoUs with leading national and international institutions such as Emory University (USA), AIIMS (Delhi) and BHU (Varanasi), etc., for academic advancement and research activities.

The University is an integral part of *Sri Madhusudan Sai Global Humanitarian Mission,* which encompasses service activities across 32 countries in the fields of education, healthcare, nutrition and spirituality with the message of '*vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam* – One World, One Family'.

Website: https://sssuhe.ac.in/

CCB unearths drug racket, arrests two foreigners

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Anti-Narcotics Wing of the Central Crime Branch on Monday arrested two foreign nationals and recovered synthetic drugs worth ₹12 lakh.

The accused, Cyril, 23, from Ghana, and Imanuel, 27, from Nigeria, came to India on business and student visas and allegedly started peddling drugs, sourcing them from Goa, Delhi, and Mumbai. The police raided their house and recovered drugs including MDMA and ecstasy. They have been booked under the NDPS Act.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JUL. 04	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 04:07	SET 17:33
FRIDAY, JUL. 05	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 05:05	SET 18:32
SATURDAY, JUL. 06	
RISE 05:59	SET 18:50
RISE 06:04	SET 19:26

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	26
Mysuru	30	22
Bengaluru	29	22

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C The day will be comfortable with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain or thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Historic Silver Jubilee Park near BBMP office is in sorry state

Thanks to the construction of a flyover and the BBMP's apathy in maintaining the space, Sri Krishnarajendra Silver Jubilee Park has turned into a dumping yard and illegal parking spot. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The historic Sri Krishnarajendra Silver Jubilee Park, that was laid out in 1927 to mark the completion of 25 years of rule of Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV, is now in a sorry state due to neglect by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The lung space, which stretches between Town Hall and Jumma masjid, was built by Dewan Sir Mirza Ismail as part of the silver jubilee.

The dewan (prime minister of the erstwhile princely State of Mysuru) had embarked upon several projects to celebrate the silver jubilee. The park, which in bygone days had hundreds of trees, is located between N.R. Road and Silver Jubilee Park Road.

Over the past 15 years, the park has lost its aesthetics. Thanks to the construction of a flyover and the BBMP's apathy in maintaining the space, it has now turned into a dumping yard and illegal parking spot. At night, a portion of the park, opposite Jumma masjid, is used for parking vehicles that carry flowers to the market. The waste generated is dumped in the same place.

U.K. Irfan Khan, a resident, told *The Hindu* that the park reeks of foul smell due to dumping of waste and urination. Despite requesting the BBMP to fix the problem, no action has been initiated by the civic body, he alleged.

Though parks cannot be used for other purposes, at night, a few men demand money to allow parking inside the park, he alleged.

"With the BBMP looking the other way, I have written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to direct civic officials to redevelop the park. I hope at least the CM will show interest in saving this lung space right in the middle of the Central Business District," Mr. Khan said.

Another resident claimed that though the gate of the park is locked on most days, people jump over the gate to get inside. In another portion, the wall has been broken, which how the space is also used for parking vehicles. He alleged that many illegal activities take place inside the park. Authorities do not act on complaints by residents, he alleged.

A BBMP official admitted that the park is in a sorry state before adding that the civic body will look into the matter and see what could be done to redevelop the place.

Girl found dead at KSR railway station parking lot

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A six-year-old girl was found dead at the parking lot of KSR railway station under mysterious circumstances on Wednesday.

The body of the child, whose identity is yet to be ascertained, was found by passers-by around 7 a.m. The body was wrapped in a cloth and the face of the girl was eaten by rodents, a senior police officer said, adding that there were no weapon injuries on the body. The police are trying to track down the parents, while the body has been sent for post-mortem.

In another incident, a 35-year-old factory employee was hacked to death near his house at Doddagunte, Cox Town in Pulakeshinagar on Wednesday. The deceased Ajith was working in ITC factory and returning home from work when an armed gang hacked him to death.

The police suspect that financial row could be the reason.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Increase in share of babies with low birth weight during COVID

3 in percentage. The low birth weight prevalence rate (among babies) is 20% in the pandemic cohort and 17% in the pre-pandemic cohort, according to a new study published in *Communications Medicine*. About two lakh infants were analysed. PTI

The decline in poverty in India during 2022-24, as per NCAER

12.7 percentage points. Poverty in India is estimated to have declined to 8.5% in 2022-24 from 21.2% in 2011-12, as per a paper by NCAER. The report said poverty declined significantly between 2004-2005 and 2011-12. PTI

Increase in people exposed to humid heat extremes in India

67 crore. A recent study by researchers, including those from Cornell University, found a significant increase in the number of people exposed to extreme levels of humid heat during monsoons over the period from 1951 to 2020. PTI

FCI's procurement of wheat during the Rabi marketing season

26.6 million tonnes. The Food Corporation of India's procurement of wheat during the Rabi Marketing Season 2024-25, surpassed last year's, the government said. The procurement benefited 2.2 million farmers. PTI

Number of people crammed into a venue for 80,000 at Hathras

2.5 in lakh. The death toll in the stampede in Phulrai village, Uttar Pradesh that broke out in a 'satsang' rose to 121. The police has filed an FIR against the organisers, accusing them of hiding evidence. PTI

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An overview of the French elections

Why did French President Emmanuel Macron decide to dissolve parliament and call for snap elections? How did the far-right National Rally become so popular? How are the two rounds of elections conducted in France? Why have left-wing parties also formed a bloc?

EXPLAINER

Joan Sony Cherian

The story so far:

The first phase of the French elections conducted on June 30, after President Emmanuel Macron's sudden decision to dissolve parliament, has placed the far-right National Rally (RN) and its allies in the lead with a 33% vote share. The New Popular Front, a left-wing coalition, came second with 28%, while Mr. Macron's centrist bloc got only 20.7% of the vote share. The second phase will be held on July 7.

Why elections now?

On June 9, Mr. Macron stated that he was dissolving parliament, three years too soon, observing that "France needs a clear majority if it is to act in serenity and harmony". This announcement came after his bloc's devastating defeat at the hands of the RN in the European Parliament elections. While the decision came as a shock to most of his party members and allies, Marine Le Pen, the RN leader, welcomed the decision, claiming, "we're ready for it".

Experts say Mr. Macron's decision was an attempt to stop the rise of the RN. His gamble was that the French public, faced with the choice of having a far-right party in power, would consolidate against the right-wing wave. However, if that was indeed the reasoning, it seems as if Mr. Macron placed the wrong bet. Almost all opinion polls by major outlets were predicting a lead for the RN (but short of an absolute majority), while Mr. Macron's approval ratings hit rock-bottom to 36%, as per a Toluna-Harris Interactive poll.

The sudden call for elections and the high stakes involved in the race has energised the electorate, with the Interior Ministry stating that 59.4% of registered voters had cast a ballot as of 5 p.m. on June 30, as compared to the 39.4% at the same time two years ago.

How are elections in France conducted?

There are 577 seats in the French parliament, which include 13 overseas districts and 11 constituencies that represent French citizens abroad. So to hold an absolute majority in parliament, a party needs 289 seats.

The first phase of the elections is equivalent to a qualifying round wherein candidates must at least get 12.5% of locally registered votes in order to stay in the race and not get eliminated. If a candidate gets more than half of the total votes cast in the first round itself, they will automatically win. If not, candidates who have met the qualifying criteria will move on to the second phase. At this stage of the elections, 'horse-trading' is a common practice wherein parties form blocs among themselves and drop candidates in constituencies which may split the vote and favour a rival party/alliance.

The 2024 snap elections are mainly a three-way battle between the RN and its allies, the New Popular Front, the left-wing coalition which include the Socialists, the Greens, the Communists and France Unbowed, and Ensemble, which is Mr. Macron's bloc.

What is at stake?

The RN, founded as the National Front (FN), was established by Ms. Le Pen's father, Jean Marie Le Pen. The FN was an offshoot of a fascist organisation created as a reaction against the Algerian war, the formation of the Fifth French republic and the protests of May 1968 in France.

A polarised nation: People hold up a sign which reads "All anti-fascists" as a protest against the National Rally party, following partial results in the first round of the elections at the Place de la Republique in Paris, France on June 30. REUTERS

However, under Ms. Le Pen, the party has undergone a significant rebranding wherein she has sought to whitewash the party's fascist roots as well as her father's Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism. By changing the name of the party from FN to RN, Ms. Le Pen also softened the organisation's once hardcore policies such as leaving the EU and opting out of the euro, the region's currency. Additionally, ever since the Russia-Ukraine war and the subsequent energy crisis, the party has actively distanced itself from Russian President Vladimir Putin with whom Ms. Le Pen once kept close ties.

However, in other aspects, the RN is as far-right as it always was. The policy of 'national priority', which the RN espouses, gives French citizens the first choice when it comes to social housing, employment and social benefits – a scheme which goes against the French Constitution. Similarly, the RN is completely opposed to immigration. It calls for the deportation of all 'illegal' immigrants and strict border controls, and characterises immigrants as destroying the 'European way of life'. The party has also promised to abolish citizenship by birth to children born to parents of foreign descent.

Thus, the RN has risen to popularity within the French republic due to fears of culture clashes, a cost-of-living crisis and Mr. Macron's unpopular policies such as increasing the age of retirement. It increased its seat share in the French parliament from seven to 89 in 2022 and now hopes for it to jump as high as anywhere between 240 to 300 seats. Moreover, the party has also been able to tap into the electorate in the provincial towns and villages of southern France, mostly composed of blue-collar workers who have often felt neglected by the political elites of Paris.

Mr. Macron's political gamble could potentially lead to France being ruled by a far-right party for the first time since the end of the Second World War. Already there have been reports of a rise in racist attacks, along with anti-far-right protests in many parts of Paris on June 30, some of which ended in violence and arson. The political uncertainty has stoked fear in immigrants and minority communities, particularly among Muslim groups who have often been attacked by the RN.

What happens next?

As the date for registering the final list of candidates who will be contesting from various constituencies is over, more than 200 candidates from the centre and left alliances have dropped out of the race in order to consolidate votes against the RN.

The sudden formation of the New Popular front (a reference to the 1936 Popular Front where Socialists and Communists allied against far-right rioters), is part of a practice known as the "republican front", wherein centrist and left parties' team up to keep right-wing parties out of power. However, whether the 'front' will hold this time is questionable, especially considering the presence of leftist leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon, a controversial figure who was accused of anti-Semitism by his rivals.

The president of the RN and its Prime Ministerial candidate, Jordan Bardella, has stated that he won't enter into an alliance with any of the other blocs. He said he didn't want to be the "President's assistant" and that he would rather be a 'cohabitation Prime Minister' as accorded by the French Constitution. A cohabitation is where the President is part of one party and Parliament is ruled by a party not of the President's. Here, domestic policy is governed by the Prime Minister and his Cabinet while defence and foreign policy are handled by the President's office. Mr. Bardella, like his patron Ms. Le Pen, promises that he would prioritise French citizens and bring more purchasing power into their hands by reducing VAT on essential products such as fuel, food, etc.

The last time a snap election was called was in 1997, when centre-right President Jacques Chirac dissolved the National Assembly to consolidate his party's dominance after a slew of unpopular policies surrounding fiscal austerity. However, his gamble backfired as a new left-wing government came to power inadvertently entering him into a cohabitation alliance. By next week, one would know whether Mr. Macron's decision will also go the same way, and whether his party will be, as Ms. Le Pen stated, "wiped out" by the RN.

THE GIST

- The first phase of the French elections conducted on June 30, after President Emmanuel Macron's sudden decision to dissolve parliament, has placed the far-right National Rally (RN) and its allies in the lead with a 33% vote share.
- The RN has risen to popularity within the French republic due to fears of culture clashes, a cost-of-living crisis and Mr. Macron's unpopular policies such as increasing the age of retirement.
- As the date for registering the final list of candidates who will be contesting from various constituencies is over, more than 200 candidates from the centre and left alliances have dropped out of the race in order to consolidate votes against the RN.

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GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
242543 000007	Design, Manufacture, Supply of two (2) Nos. of Fully Automatic Exercise Notebook Conversion Machine and its Auxiliaries, Spares and Supervision of Erection, Start-up & Commissioning for TNPL Mayanur Plant.	03.08.2024

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in the tender document at our websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

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(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)

Office of the KGMSDC, CoE Building, Kaushalya Bhavan Campus, Bannerughatta Road, Bangalore-560 029. Ph.No: 080 29649797

No : KGS.EST/PRJ/CNS/CR-05/2024-25 Date: 03.07.2024

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Society for Karnataka German Multi Skill Development Centre is a registered autonomous body established by the Government of Karnataka and has already established the Karnataka German Technical Training Institutes in Bengaluru, Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Mangaluru, Hubballi and Mysuru with technical assistance from the German International Services (GIZ-Ins). The Society is looking for dynamic people, motivated and energetic professionals with proven abilities in strategic Management and Team Building, problem solving skills and managing time bound VET projects for the following position.

Sl.No.	Position	Location	Number of Posts
01	Project Manager	KGMSDC Bengaluru	01

Detailed requirements of the position & information can be obtained from our website **www.kgtti.com**

Sd/- Member Secretary, KGMSDC, Bengaluru.

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ಸಂ:ಜಿಆಹಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/01/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29/06/2024.

E-Tender Notification

The District Surgeon, District Hospital, Haveri. here in after invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for providing various outsource staff on outsource basis. The tenderers shall submit tenders in two Bid system procedures as per KTPP Act. The Tenders are required to submit two separate bids, one containing the Earnest money deposit and the details of their capability to undertake the which will be opened first and the second bid containing the price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered project. tenderers can download tender documents from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal
Tender Time table:

1	Tender Uploading Date	01/07/2024
2	Approximate Tender Value	Rs.129 Lakhs
3	Last Date and time to upload tender	D:15/07/2024 4.00 PM
4	Technical Bid Opening Date and time	D:16/07/2024 4.30 PM
5	Technical Bid Evaluation Date and time	It will be intimated
6	Financial Bid Opening Date and time	It will be intimated
7	EMD Amount	Rs. 2,58,000 Lakhs
8	E-Procurement Portal Processing Fees	As per https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal
9	Officer In-charge and contact details	District Surgeon District Hospital Haveri 08375-233360/8660990320

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OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY No. TSQ-1152/TD-II/2024-25

Dy. CE/TL(Design), B-1 Shakti Vihar, Patiala invites E-tenders of Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Stringing, Sagging and commissioning of High Temperature Low Sag Conductor (HTLS) (except gap Conductor) along with supply and erection of all types of associated hardware fittings and accessories on existing tower/sub-station structures, De-stringing/Replacement of existing conductor along with existing hardware fittings on existing 66KV Single / Double / Multi Circuit Transmission Lines and sub-station structures as per scope on Turnkey Basis as per PSPCL Specification No. TSQ-1152/ TD-II/2024-25. For detailed NIT and Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 05.07.2024 from 11.00 AM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

C-394/24 **76155/12/3055/2023/35274**

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ

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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪುಸ:ಕೋ:ತಾಂ:ಶಾ:08:2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–07–2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಾದ ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿ ಕೊರೆದು ಪಂಪ್ ಮೋಟಾರ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಎದುರು ರಸ್ತೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾಂಕ್ರೀಟ್ ರಸ್ತೆಯನ್ನಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರುಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

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1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 1 ಮತ್ತು 2 ಕ್ಕೆ 09–07–2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ.
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ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/734/ಅಡ್ವರ್ಟೋರ್/2024–25

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ1.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:08:2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01–07–2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ವಿಶೇಷ ಅನುದಾನ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 04 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91–8046010000 +91–8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 03–07–2024 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 10–07–2024 ಸಮಯ : 16.30 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 10–07–2024 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 12–07–2024 ಸಮಯ : 11.00

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/104/ ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

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JVV2425WSOB00224	JVV2425WSOB00342	JVV2425WSOB00343	JVV2425WSOB00344
JVV2425WSOB00345	JVV2425WSOB00346	JVV2425WSOB00347	JVV2425WSOB00348
JVV2425WSOB00349	JVV2425WSOB00350	JVV2425WSOB00351	JVV2425WSOB00352
JVV2425WSOB00358	JVV2425WSOB00353	JVV2425WSOB00354	JVV2425WSOB00355
JVV2425WSOB00356	JVV2425WSOB00360	JVV2425WSOB00361	JVV2425WSOB00362
JVV2425WSOB00363	JVV2425WSOB00365	JVV2425WSOB00359	JVV2425WSOB00309
JVV2425WSOB00280	JVV2425WSOB00308	JVV2425WSOB00316	JVV2425WSOB00315
JVV2425WSOB00311	JVV2425WSOB00277	JVV2425WSOB00310	JVV2425WSOB00314
JVV2425WSOB00312	JVV2425WSOB00274	JVV2425WSOB00284	JVV2425WSOB00289
JVV2425WSOB00287	JVV2425WSOB00330	JVV2425WSOB00331	JVV2425WSOB00332
JVV2425WSOB00333	JVV2425WSOB00334	JVV2425WSOB00335	JVV2425WSOB00336
JVV2425WSOB00337	JVV2425WSOB00338	JVV2425WSOB00339	JVV2425WSOB00340
JVV2425WSOB00341	JVV2425WSOB00383	JVV2425WSOB00400	JVV2425WSOB00395
JVV2425WSOB00393	JVV2425WSOB00288	JVV2425WSOB00384	JVV2425WSOB00391
JVV2425WSOB00390	JVV2425WSOB00397	JVV2425WSOB00392	JVV2425WSOB00385
JVV2425WSOB00382	JVV2425WSOB00386	JVV2425WSOB00389	JVV2425WSOB00394
JVV2425WSOB00396	JVV2425WSOB00387	JVV2425WSOB00366	JVV2425WSOB00373
JVV2425WSOB00374	JVV2425WSOB00371	JVV2425WSOB00376	JVV2425WSOB00372
JVV2425WSOB00369	JVV2425WSOB00368	JVV2425WSOB00365	JVV2425WSOB00337
JVV2425WSOB00375	JVV2425WSOB00215	JVV2425WSOB00216	JVV2425WSOB00329
JVV2425WSOB00217	JVV2425WSOB00218	JVV2425WSOB00328	JVV2425WSOB00219
JVV2425WSOB00227	JVV2425WSOB00326	JVV2425WSOB00220	JVV2425WSOB00221
JVV2425WSOB00325	JVV2425WSOB00222	JVV2425WSOB00323	JVV2425WSOB00324
JVV2425WSOB00300	JVV2425WSOB00306	JVV2425WSOB00307	JVV2425WSOB00305
JVV2425WSOB00299	JVV2425WSOB00303	JVV2425WSOB00304	JVV2425WSOB00302
JVV2425WSOB00301	JVV2425WSOB00321	JVV2425WSOB00319	JVV2425WSOB00320
JVV2425WSOB00298			

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CIVIL)

राज.संवाद / सी / 24 / 1676 बिजली शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर— 1800—180—6045

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System) (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPCL invites tenders from Class-III and above contractors registered in KPWD through KPP Portal: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the following works. **1). KPCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1447/CALL-2, Date: 01.07.2024,** Housekeeping and maintenance of Administrative building, Temporary office buildings, ODY, 220kV, 400kV Control rooms and DG House-1, 2 & 3 for a period of one (01) year at RTPS. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 40.00 Lakhs.** Work completion period: Twelve(12) Months including Monsoon period. **2). KPCL/2024-25/OW/ WORK_INDENT1649, Date: 01.07.2024,** Online cleaning of forebay of CWPH 1 & 2 at RTPS. Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 14.80 Lakhs.** Work completion period: **03 Months.** Last date for submission of tenders: For Sl. No. 2, **15.07.2024 upto 17:00Hrs.** Further details can be had for Sl. No. 1, from the office of the **Executive Engineer (PCM-2),** Mobile No.: **94495 96582,** For Sl. No. 2, **Executive Engineer (PCM-1),** Mobile No.: **94495 96577, KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar - 584170.** Website: **https://kpcl.karnataka.gov.in**

ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 560 100
ಫೋನ್: 080–22111177, E-Mail:ka.doddathoguru.tp@gmail.com

ಸಂ:ದೊ.ಪ.ಪಂ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/01/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.07.2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸ್ವಂತ ನಿಧಿ, SFC, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ, 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸ್ವಂತ ನಿಧಿ, SFC ಮುಕ್ತ ನಿಧಿ, 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ರೀತಿಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1 ಮತ್ತು 2 ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆ.ಜಿ–1ರ ನಿಬಂದನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ತಮ್ಮ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ– ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕುರಿತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಅಥವಾ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿಭಾಗದಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ)
01	DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK-Indent 19902(SC)	3,50,000/-
02	DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK-Indent 19959 (SC)	2,88,000/-
03	DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK-Indent 19963 (Others)	1,66,000/-
04	DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK-Indent 19965(Others)	2,18,000/-
05	DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK-Indent 19966(Others)	30,80,000/-
06	DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK-Indent 19967 (Others)	23,10,000/-
07	DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK-Indent 20000 (SC)	11,28,000/-
08	DMA/2024-25/BD/WORK-Indent 20014 (Others)	1,77,000/-
09	DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK-Indent 20043 (Others)	4,12,000/-
10	DMA/2024-25/BD/WORK-Indent 20049(Others)	1,25,000/-
11	DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK-Indent 20055 (ST)	1,37,000/-
12	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK-Indent 20065 (Others)	96,000/-
13	DMA/2024-25/BD/WORK-Indent 20070 (Others)	23,10,000/-
14	DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK-Indent 19980 (Others)	3,98,000/-

01. ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:12.07.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
02. ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ರಜೆ ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದರ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ತಹಶೀಲ್ದಾರ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ ಜಿಎ/762/2024–25
ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)

E-mail: contracts@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in

No. BMRCL/Phase-2/Reach-5(P1&P2)/Road Work/2024/ 110 Date: 04.07.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Managing Director/ BMRCL, the General Manager (Contracts) invites open e-tenders from eligible applicants, who fulfill the prescribed eligibility cum qualification criteria (EQC) for the work **"Construction of Road (Main Carriageway) in 4th lane of NH road in between Bommasandra and Kudlugate along Bangalore-Hosur Highway (Pier-601 to Pier-429 of Package-1 & Pier-428 to Pier-390 of Package-2, approximately 4.00 kms length) in Reach-5 Line of Bangalore Metro Rail Project, Phase-2".** Estimated Tender Value: Rs. **6.44 Cr.,** Tender Fees: **Rs. 11,800/-. EMD (**Tender Security): **Rs. 9.66 Lakhs.**, Sale/ download of tender documents: from **04.07.2024 to 12.08.2024,** Date and time of submission of e-tenders: **05.08.2024 (From 10.00 A.M.) to 12.08.2024 (Up to 3.00 P.M.)**, Date and time of opening of e-tenders: **13.08.2024 at 3.00 P.M.** For more details, visit e-tendering website: **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app** from **04.07.2024** onwards.

Sd/- General Manager (Contracts)

KARNATAKA HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT ENGINEERING WING

(Office of the Chief Engineer, ArogyaSoudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560 023) (Phone: 080-29557023 e-mail: cekhsdrp@gmail.com)

No: HFWD/EW/CE/TA-8/AE-3/TND/2024-25/719 Date : 03.07.2024

Tender Notification

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Class-I contractors registered in KPWD in two tender document system in Kpp Protal for Construction of Primary Health Centers at **Package-1 work in Bidar District** - approximate total project cost is **Rs.800.00 lakhs, Package-4 work in Ballari District** - approximate total project cost is **Rs.800.00 lakhs, Package-6 work in Vijayanagara District** - approximate total project cost is **Rs.800.00 lakhs,** The stipulated period for completion of works is 11 months including monsoon. **Package-2 work** in **Yadgir** - approximate total project cost is **Rs.2800.00 lakhs,** The stipulated period for completion of works is 15 months including monsoon. **Package-3 work in Raichur District** - approximate total project cost is **Rs.4800.00 lakhs & Package-5** work in Koppal District - approximate total project cost is **Rs.3200.00 lakhs.** The stipulated period for completion of works is 18 months including monsoon. **Refer Kpp Portal for further details.**

Calendar of Events: 1. Last date for receipt of tenders : **05.08.2024 upto 16.00 hrs. 2.** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : **06.08.2024 at 16.00 hrs.** The tender details can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp. karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the under signed for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through news papers and further changes will be updated only on Kpp Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF TAMIL NADU

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM, RAJA MUTHIAH ROAD, PERIYAMET, CHENNAI - 3.

Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-Tender ref No.7842/SI-1/2022 **Dated : 04.07.2024**

e-bids are invited for the following work by the Member Secretary, Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Raja Muthiah Road, Periyamet, Chennai-600 003 under two cover system.

Name of work	Construction of District Sports Complex at Ranipet District. (Two cover system) EMD: Rs.7,60,000/-
Pre-bid Meeting on	12.07.2024 at 12.30 A.M in the O/o The Member Secretary, Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Raja Muthiah Road, Periyamet, Chennai - 600003.
Last date for submission of online tender	05.08.2024 at 4.00 P.M
Date of opening of technical bids	06.08.2024 at 4.00 P.M
Period of Contract	450 Days from the date of handing over the site

Tenders available at **https://tntenders.gov.in** All further information / notices shall be published in e-procurement portal only.

DIPR/2170/Tender/2024 **(Sd/-) Member Secretary, SDAT**

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD, KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI

Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105.
Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/WS/SIRGUPPA-15th FINANCE/2024-25/368 Date:01-07-2024

-: NOTICE INVITING TENDER :-

1) Name and description of work : Construction of 5.00LL RCC OHT (Shaft Type) over 15 Mtr Staging behind Vijayamery school of Sy.No.426/A in Siruguppa city under DC works with CMC Siruguppa (15th finance general grants for the year 2020-21) (Lumpsum) **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2024-25 / WS / WORK_INDENT226),** 2) Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakh) (Including GST): **125.19**, 3) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount (Rs.in Lakhs): 2.00, 4) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors, 5) Period of completion including monsoon in months: 09 Months (Eighteen), 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal: **03-07-2024 after 12:30 Hours,** 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **10-07-2024 at 11:30 Hours**, 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders:**18-07-2024 Up to 17:30 Hours**, 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender: **20-07-2024 After 11:00 Hours,** 10) Addl. information: Chief Engineer Office, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105. Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 11) Address of E-portail: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/157/KSMC&A/2024-25

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender(Rs.) / EMD Amount(Rs.)	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date and time for opening of tender
1	BORE WELL	BWSSB/EBWTE/AE/358/ 2024-25 Date: 02.07.2024 (2nd Call)	Rs. 90.39 Lakhs / Rs. 1.81 Lakhs	18.07.2024 upto 04:00 pm	20.07.2024 at 04:00 pm
2	BORE WELL	BWSSB/EBWTE/AE/359/ 2024-25 Date: 02.07.2024 (3rd Call)	Rs. 90.14 Lakhs / Rs. 1.81 Lakhs	18.07.2024 upto 04:00 pm	20.07.2024 at 04:00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Borewell)

The details regarding the tender and participating in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/JA/761/2024-25

Government of Karnataka

PUBLIC WORKS, PORTS & INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagara
Phone / Fax : 08226-222027 Email : eecnr@kpwd.gov.in / pwdeechngr@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement portal only)

(**Two Cover System** : Section-1-Technical Bid and Section-2- Financial Bid)

Tender Notification No. 02/2024-25 Dated : 25-06-2024

Item rate tenders are invited through e-procurement portal only on behalf of Governor of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document **KW-4,** form the Total no of works is 1**, H/A :- 8443 DC Works** maximum estimated cost is Rs. 300.00 lakhs, Further Changes in this Notification will be Published in E-Procurement Only. **Date of events as follows:**

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the e-procurement portal	From 27-06-2024 to 15-07-2024 upto 16.00 Hrs
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	08-07-2024 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	16-07-2024 after 16.00 Hrs.
4	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	18-07-2024 after 16.00 Hrs.

More Information can be had from the Web site : **https://www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Chamarajanagar

DIPR : CHANAGAR:57:2024-25

Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Science, Lucknow

Aurawan, P.O. Banthra, Lucknow-226401 (U.P.)

Admissions-2024-25 OPEN

(Last Date for application-21.07.2024)

The UPSIFS, Lucknow (Established in 2021) functioning under the aegis of the Home Department, Govt. of U.P. & affiliated with the National Forensic Science University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat invites the applications for registration in order to get admission on vacant seats in this Institute for the following courses in the forthcoming Academic Session 2024-25:-

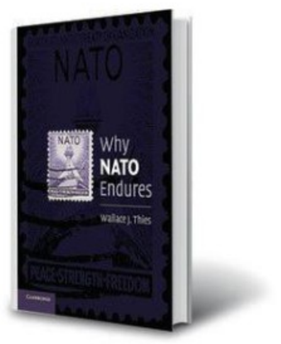
S.N.	Name of the Course	Mode of Selection
1.	B.Sc./M.Sc. Forensic Science (five-years integrated programme)	The selection shall be based on merit of the scores obtained in NFAT-2024, NEET-2023 & 2024, CUET (UG)-2023 & 2024.
2.	B.Sc. LL.B. (five-years integrated programme)	The selection shall be based on merit of the scores obtained in CLAT (UG)-2023 & 2024, CUET (UG)-2023 & 2024, JEE (Mains)-2024.
3.	B.Tech.-M.Tech. Computer Science & Engineering (Cyber Security) (four-years programme)	The selection shall be based on merit of the marks obtained in JEE(Mains) & (Advanced)-2024.
4.	M.Sc. Forensic Science (two-years programme)	The selection shall be based on merit of the scores obtained in NFAT-2024, CUET (PG)-2023 & 2024.
5.	LL.M. (one-year programme)	The selection shall be based on merit of the scores obtained in CLAT (PG)-2023 & 2024 , CUET (PG)-2023 & 2024.
6.	M.Tech.-Artificial Intelligence & Data Science (Specialization in Cyber Security) (two-years programme)	The selection shall be based on merit of the score obtained in GATE 2023 & 2024 & CUET (PG)-2023 & 2024, NFAT-2024.

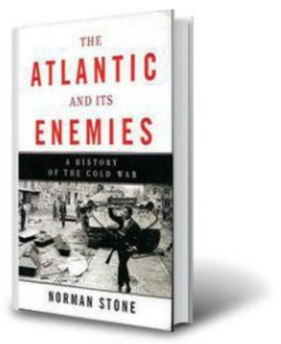
For the Registration & other details please visit the website www.upsifs.ac.in. For any query e-mail to admissions@upsifs.ac.in. Mobile No. 7839001310.

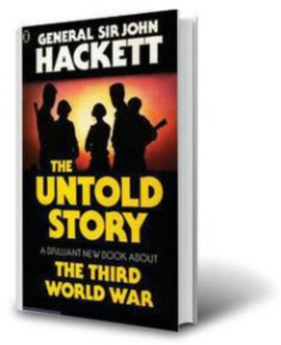
UPID RO: 217035
RO Dt: 03-07-24
www.up.gov.in

Director
UPSIFS, Lucknow

BIBLIOGRAPHY







Going strong: Flags flutter as the NATO foreign ministers' meeting takes place at the Alliance's headquarters in Brussels, Belgium on April 4, 2023. REUTERS

Till Russia do us part? NATO at 75, an enduring alliance

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation came into being on April 4, 1949. Writers explain the complex structure of this alliance, after it began life as the 'Atlantic Alliance'. After NATO's failures in Afghanistan, Russia's aggression has given new momentum to the alliance, making it feel relevant

Shoumojit Banerjee

In Gen. Sir John Hackett's terrifying alternate fiction, *The Third World War* (1978), which describes a world locked in nuclear conflict, a deliberate provocation against the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) powers in Europe causes WWIII. Though NATO wins the war, it's a pyrrhic victory.

In H.G. Wells mould, *The Third World War* was a 'Shape of Things to Come' for the nuclear age, and leagues apart from dreary military publications on NATO, and an exciting way to understand the complex structures of this alliance, which turned 75 this year since its formation on April 4, 1949.

NATO began life as the 'Atlantic Alliance' in 1949 with 12 states including the U.S. and Canada, as well as the U.K., France, Belgium among others in Europe as its founding members with the aim to deter Soviet Union expansion under Stalin (NATO today has 31 members). U.S. President Harry Truman's administration feared that the dictator wanted to expand his empire as Stalin's iron fist fell on countries in eastern and central Europe 'liberated' by the Red Army from Nazi Germany where puppet Communist regimes were installed following the Second World War.

NATO's purpose was encapsulated in a famous quip attributed to the alliance's first secretary general, Baron Hastings 'Pug' Ismay, who described it thus: "to keep the Soviet Union out, the Americans in, and the Germans down."

In *Deterring Armageddon*, a sweeping biography of NATO, Peter Apps notes that the world's longest military alliance has outlasted its historic rival, the ancient Athenian-dominated Delian League, formed against the Persians in 478 BC and dissolved 74 years later following the end of the Peloponnesian War in 404 BC.

Eye on minutiae

In fluid prose, Apps brings to life personalities dimmed by the march of history and turns the spotlight on obscure diplomatic details. For instance, a March 1954 proposal by the Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov to Politburo honchos Georgy Malenkov and Nikita Khrushchev urged the Soviet Union to take diplomatic and political initiative by applying for NATO membership!

The book is full of choice anecdotes and apercus: Apps wryly notes that for Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme military command of NATO provided a welcome escape from the boredom of peacetime university administration.

The third and fourth week of June 1948 saw a series of momentous events that directly lent impetus to the formation and growth of NATO. After the Western Allies introduced the new German currency, the Deutsche Mark (DM), in the British, French and American zones, Stalin cut off road and rail access to the western sector of Berlin on June 24, marking the start of the Berlin blockade. This in turn led to the incredible Berlin airlift (June 26) which saw Allied airplanes supplying Berliners with essentials (from foodstuffs to coal) for an incredible 323 days.

Yet, relations between the Western European powers and America have been riven by tensions, right from the formation of NATO.

The launch of NATO

In a splendid chapter in *The Atlantic and its Enemies* (2010), maverick historian Norman Stone charts the formation of the NATO system. As Stone says, while there had already been a military alliance between the British and the French in the Treaty of Dunkirk in 1947, it was marked by distrust of the Americans.

It was the ratcheting Soviet threat beginning with the Soviet-backed Communist coup in Czechoslovakia in February 1948 that saw a 'Brussels Pact' being formed the very next month. This pact brought in the Low countries with a committee of defence ministers and staff under the British war hero, Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery.

The stage was set for the creation of the Atlantic Alliance as "old wartime alliances came to life," says Stone. A key point, as the edifice for future NATO coordination between countries was built upon the coordination plans laid by Eisenhower and his military colleagues from Allied countries during his time as Supreme Allied Commander during D-Day (the start of the liberation of Europe from Nazi Germany) in the Second World War.

Secret armies

Despite all the grand rhetoric about democratic ideology, NATO was not made up of democratic states – Salazar's Portugal was part of it. Soviet skullduggery in Central Europe was matched by NATO and the CIA in the form of secret 'stay-behind armies' (the Gladio network, consisting of military operatives, and involving the mafia with tacit support from the Vatican) which attempted to undermine left-wing regimes.

What then makes NATO different from other alliances of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries, which were rife with mutual suspicion and rank opportunism?

For analytical clarity, Wallace Thies' *Why NATO Endures* (2009) is a must-read. The book debunks the frequent 'NATO-in-crisis' myth as well. Thies observes that the absence of divisive ideological issues was reflected in the conduct of 18th century wars, which were mainly about balance of power. This meant every state could be considered a potential ally, while a parity in power ensured that no one had a decisive edge. Moreover, the absence of any bonds of affinity or affection between allies meant that alliance members generally had few qualms about sacrificing their partners' interests for the sake of their own.

Two diplomatic classics offer a template to understand pre-NATO alliances: Walter L. Dorn's 1940 work *Competition for Empire* offers the example of England and Austria during the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-48), characterising them as "unsuitable allies." The iconoclastic A.J. P. Taylor's *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe* (1954) is splendid on the cynical motives of the alliances formed between 1848 to the end of World War I in 1918. Taylor observes the disastrous coordination between the 'Triple Entente' countries (the U.K., France, and Russia) before the start of the 1914 war. "From the moment the war opened, the French, uncertain that Russia really would or could perform what she had promised, began exhorting their ally to hurry [on to Berlin]," quips Taylor, in one of his classic aphorisms.

According to Thies, unlike the members of pre-1939 alliances, who often sought to keep each other in the dark regarding their capabilities and their intentions, NATO members opted for integration and transparency in their defence efforts to a degree never before achieved in the history of alliances.

And yet, the alliance survived. After NATO's failures in Afghanistan, Russia's aggression has given new momentum to the alliance, making it feel relevant.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the 248th anniversary of the adoption of the United States of America's Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Why does the the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia ring 13 times every July 4?

QUESTION 2
What distinction does Edward Rutledge have among the 56 signatories of the historic document?

QUESTION 3
Who was the English monarch when the colonies established independence and in which European capital was the treaty, that recognised American independence, signed on September 3, 1783?

QUESTION 4
One of the highlights of the Independence Day is the spectacular fireworks display in New York. Which famous department stores has sponsored it since 1976?

QUESTION 5
On which world-famous U.S. monument can one see the engraving 'July IV MDCCLXXVI" (July 4, 1776)' on a tablet?

QUESTION 6
He is said to have remarked after doing what he did: "The British ministry can read that name without spectacles; let them double their reward.". Who and what did he do?

QUESTION 7
In which year was July 4 declared a national holiday in the U.S.?

Visual question:
Name this only U.S. President to be born on July 4 (in 1872). WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This movie was directed by Robert Zemeckis and starred Michael J. Fox as Marty McFly. **Ans: *Back to the Future***
2. This American singer and songwriter died on July 3, 1971. **Ans: Jim Morrison**
3. This musician who was the founder of the band 'The Rolling Stones' was found dead in 1969. **Ans: Brian Jones**
4. This American actor is known for action and sci-fi films, where he often performs his own risky stunts. **Ans: Tom Cruise**
5. This singer retired his stage persona Ziggy Stardust on the last day of the Ziggy Stardust Tour. **Ans: David Bowie**
Visual: This writer was born in 1883 and this is the term used to describe absurd situations like those depicted in his writing. **Ans: Franz Kafka; Kafkaesque**
Early Birds: Prashant Nain| Seema Das| Ranjeet Kumar| Akshay Kumar Khanna| Eliza

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Words are interesting. Each word has a story to tell if one has the patience to listen. Some words which had a good meaning once have a bad meaning now. Like human beings, words also undergo changes either for better or for worse. Here are some examples:

Silly: If Churchill met King Alfred and if the latter said that Churchill appeared very silly, he would be paying a compliment to Churchill. Churchill would be furious, though. In Old English silly meant, 'happy, blessed.' It came to be associated more and more with the clergy who were supposed to contemplate on God much of the time. They were supposed to be 'silly,' 'happy' for this reason. When you think of God much of the time, others would say that you do not know much about this world. They would say that you do not know much about the ways of the world. Hence, in course of time, 'silly' came to mean 'simple', 'ingenuous;' eventually, the modern meaning 'foolish.' What a fall for 'silly.' Even today some silly people may be really happy, some happy people really silly. We have an instance of degeneration of meaning in the word 'silly.'

'Villain' originally meant 'a worker in a farm.' It is derived from Latin 'Villa', a farmhouse. 'Knave' originally meant 'boy.' The world 'knabe' in German means 'boy.' The original meaning of 'cunning' was 'skilful;' 'counterfeit' did not have any bad meaning when it was first used. It meant 'imitation', 'portrait.' 'Lust' originally meant 'pleasure,' 'rash' meant 'active,'

Minister: In Latin 'minister' means 'servant'. Originally, in English also, it meant the same. The old meaning is retained in the verb 'to minister' which means 'to render service.' Christ said that he had come 'not to be ministered unto but to minister.' 'Minister' has acquired an exalted status now. A minister is a head of a government department. Most ministers treat others like servants. They are the rajas, not 'mantris.' 'Mantri' in Sanskrit means 'adviser,' 'councellor.' The Chinese word 'mandarin' is from Sanskrit 'mantri.' A mandarin is a Chinese official, a bureaucrat, a respected person. The Chinese had nine ranks of mandarins and each was distinguishable by the button on their cap: ruby; coral; sapphire; an opaque blue stone; crystal; an opaque white shell; wrought gold; plain gold; and silver.

In 'minister' we have an example of exaltation of meaning. Some more words of this kind: 'Nice' originally meant 'foolish,' marshal, 'a house-boy,'. Chamberlain, 'servant in charge of the chambers,' lord 'bread-keeper,' lady, 'bread-kneader.' 'Knead' means 'to press and stretch bread dough with the hands to form a firm, smooth paste.' The 'k' is silent and 'ea' is pronounced like the 'ea' in 'east.'

Published in The Hindu on July 28, 1992.

Word of the day

Pestiferous:
contaminated with infecting organisms; likely to spread and cause an epidemic disease; tending to corrupt or pervert; causing irritation or annoyance

Synonyms: dirty, pestilent, perversive, corruptive

Usage: *Those pestiferous boys won't leave my guava tree alone.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/pestiferouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌpɛsˈtɪfərəs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Labourer from U.P. dies in mudslide in Mangaluru

NDRF and SDRF personnel busy in the rescue operation in Mangaluru on Wednesday. H.S. MANJUNATH

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A labourer from Uttar Pradesh died and another was rescued from a mudslide at a construction site in Bendorewell on Wednesday.

The police gave the name of the deceased as Chandan Kumar, 30, of Parasi in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh.

With Kumar's death, the number of persons who have died in rain-related incidents since the onset of monsoon in the district has touched eight.

Kumar and Rajkumar, 18, from Dhawani village of Rohtas district of Bihar, were waterproofing a portion of the retaining wall, at the site of the construction of Rohan Suites Studio Apartment. The two were working between the retaining wall and the mud embankment and were standing on the scaffolding placed about 40 feet from the ground. Around 12.30 p.m. there was a mudslide and the two were trapped.

The Fire and Emergency Services personnel, along with the State Disaster Response Force personnel, began the rescue operation.

Deputy Commissioner M.P. Mullai Muhilan and Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal too joined soon after and oversaw the operation, which was held amidst intermittent heavy rain.

Around 2.30 p.m., Rajkumar was rescued and shifted to the Father Muller Hospital in Kankanady. Soon after, the National Disaster Response Force team stationed in Puttur rushed to the spot to rescue Kumar, who was trapped a few metres below the place from where Rajkumar was rescued.

Kumar's body was retrieved by 7.30 p.m.

Now, pay ₹300 for dengue test at pvt. hospitals

For a rapid card screening test, the government has fixed a price of ₹250; private hospitals have been charging between ₹750 and ₹1,500 for a test

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid a surge in dengue cases in Karnataka, the State government on Wednesday fixed a price cap of ₹300 each on Dengue Elisa NS1 antigen and Dengue Elisa IgM antibody tests in private hospitals and diagnostic laboratories. For a rapid card screening test (NS1, IgM and IgG antibodies), the government has fixed a price of ₹250.

Currently, the cost of diagnostic tests in private hospitals ranges from ₹750 to ₹1,500.

The enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (Elisa) is an immunological assay commonly used to measure antibodies, antigens, proteins and glycoproteins in biological samples. The rates have been fixed under the Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Act, 2020, and a Government Order on the price cap was issued on Wednesday.

A municipal worker fumigating a park in Bengaluru. PTI

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who held a coordination meeting to chalk out dengue control measures with officials from BBMP, Health, and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) departments on Tuesday, had said a notification on the price cap will be issued on Wednesday.

Some hospitals have expressed concerns about the financial implications of the price cap, while others have welcomed the move as a necessary step to ensure public health

Following this, a rate fixation committee was set up that held a meeting with representatives of private hospitals and diagnostic laboratories on Wednesday. The committee recommended a price cap of ₹300 each for Elisa NS1 test and Elisa IgM test and ₹250 for a rapid test. Dengue has been on the rise in the State with 6,390 cases and six deaths reported this year so far.

Mixed response

The response from private healthcare providers has been mixed. Some hospitals have expressed concerns about the financial implications of the price cap, while others have welcomed the move as a necessary step to ensure public health.

Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association (PHANA) said the price cap is unreasonable. PHANA president Govindaiah Yatheesh said the association has requested the government to keep the dengue test price at ₹800. "In 2015, the price cap was fixed at ₹500 and nine years later without taking into consideration inflation and other allied aspects, the government has announced ₹300 price cap. This is unreasonable as the cost of dengue test kits itself is around ₹450, apart from the manpower," Dr. Yatheesh told *The Hindu*.

H.M. Venkatappa, Managing Director of Kanva Diagnostics, said the price cap will only dilute the quality of tests. "While the price fixed for the rapid test is reasonable, it is not feasible for us to do the Elisa tests at ₹300 each," he said.

KSRF, e-KRDIP to spearhead nanotech research in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State has been taking significant steps to take a leading position in nanotechnology research, and this would be achieved through the Karnataka State Research Foundation (KSRF) and the e-Karnataka Research and Development Innovation Platform (e-KRDIP), said Minister of Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology N.S. Boseraju here on Tuesday.

Speaking at the Bangalore India Nano 2024 curtain raiser, Mr. Boseraju said Bengaluru was one of the world's leading cities for innovation, and Karnataka has a reputation as an industrially friendly state. According to the Minister, KSRF has been established to foster a supportive environment for startups and enterprises to conduct research and manufacture new products.

Additionally, e-KRDIP is being established to disseminate the results of new research to the general public, start-ups, and enterprises.

"Nanotechnology research will be given high priority through these two institutions," he added.

Bangalore India Nano 2024, scheduled from August 1 to 3, will focus on the theme "Nanotechnology for Sustainable Climate, Energy, and Healthcare."

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRASHANTH Raj Kumar, S/O : Madanraj ,R/O: B–137, 1st Flr, Aratt Vivera Aprts, Bolaguda Rd Begur, Blore– 68. Have Changed My Name As Prashant Raj Kumar Vide Afdvt Dtd 29/06/24.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT MUNSIF,DINDIGUL
I.A.NO. 140/2022 in O.S. No.82/2022

D. Balan ---- Plaintiff
---/vs/---
Radhakrishnan and 3others Defendants
B. Saravanakumari,
W/o. Balakrishnan,
3rd street, Lakshmi Road,
Shanthi Nagar, Bangalore Town,
Karnataka State. - 4th Defendant.

Public Notice

As per the order in the above suit, this notice is issued to the 4th defendant to appear before the above Hon'ble Court coming on 16.07.2024 at 10 a.m. in person or through her counsel. Otherwise, the 4th defendant will be determined as ex-parte.

P. Palkannan, M.A. B.L.,
Advocate, Enrollment No: 1788/2004.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XLII ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-43)
O.S. No. 2797/2018

BETWEEN: Smt. Kamalamma and others, R/a No. 66, Rastreeya Vidyalaya Road, Near RV Teachers College, Basavanagudi, Bangalore- 560004 ... **Plaintiffs**

AND: C. Munithyamma and others ... **Defendants**

NOTICE/SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS

Defendant No.6: Mrs. Saraswathi, W/o. Krishnamurthy, aged about 60 years, R/a. Malatahalli Post, Palanjogihalli, Doddaballapura -561203 ...**Defendant No.6**

Defendant No.2(b): Mrs. C.N. Hemalatha, D/o. late C.G. Narayana, W/o. MC Pramod Kumar, aged Major, R/a No.6, Ramakrishnaiah Street, Seshadripuram, Bangalore- 560020 ... **Defendant No.2(b)**

Whereas the above named plaintiff has preferred a suit for partition before this Hon'ble Court (CCH No.43) under Section 26 r/w Order VII Rule 1 and 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure seeking for partition of the Schedule Property.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Court in person or by a pleader, duly instructed on **05-08-2024** at **11.00 AM** to show cause against the plaintiff failing which the matter will be heard and determined ex-parte

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site No. 25, New No. 65, measuring 3300 Sq.Ft., East End Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore, being bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Service Road/Conservancy, **North by:** Property belonging to Gopalkrishna, **South by:** Property belonging to Ramaswamy

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 20-06-2024

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bangalore
MADHURI GAIKWAD, Advocate

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. BE-29-2024-25-OT-08

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work:

OT No.	Description of work	Approx. Value
08	Electrical	₹65,34,418/-

arrangements for Track machine rest rooms over Bengaluru Division and Extension of HL platform at Golhalli station-Electrical Arrangements.

Last date of submission of bids **Upto 15:00 hrs. on 18.07.2024**

For Details Log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Bengaluru

PUB/213/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway-SWR · SWRRLY · SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No. Hiring_Helpers_Sig_60 Nos. Dated 27.06.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description in brief	Approx. value
Hiring of Helpers for lubrication of points and assistance in various signalling maintenance activities over Bengaluru Division.	₹4,04,30,880/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 hrs. on 19.07.2024**

For Details Log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer, Bengaluru

PUB/215/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway-SWR · SWRRLY · SWRRLY

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2, AT BANGALORE
O.A. No. 1432 of 2023

M/s. CANARA BANK
KORAMANGALA BR., BANGALORE-560034.
Rep. by its Senior Manager **V/s. ....APPLICANT**
Sri. NAGARAJ. S. & ANOTHER ....DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS TO THE DEFT. Nos. 1 & 2 ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF DRT (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993

Deft. No. 1: **Sri. NAGARAJ. S.**
Aged about 46 Years, S/o. Sri. Sripada Jois
Deft. No. 2: **Smt. ANITHA S.R.**
Aged about 39 Years, W/o. Sri Nagaraj S.,
Both are R/@. # 39, 4th Cross, 40 Feet Road, 2nd Phase, Manjunatha Nagar, Bangalore-560 010.

WHEREAS the above named Applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 66,99,938/=** alongwith court costs, together with current & future interest and other reliefs from the date of application till date of recovery. You are hereby required **to show cause within 30 days of the service of the summons or on 4th day of October 2024 at 10:30 a.m.** either in person or duly instructed pleader as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take Notice that, in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 15th day of June 2024 at Bangalore.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
Sd/- (REGISTRAR)
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2 for Karnataka
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bangalore-560 001.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: B/TRD. 2024-25/07 Dated: 28-06-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the work	Approx. value
[i] Bengaluru-Jolarpettai section: Replacement of cantilevers for catenary stagger adjustment and due to rusting, replacement of worn-out droppers and improvement of sectioning arrangements. [ii] Provision of Auxiliary Transformer at LC gates LC No.119 (Bangarapet-Tyakal) and 7(Oorgaum-Champion). [iii] OHE modification in connection with construction of pit line 150 mtrs length at Rd-01 SGT yard	Rs. 1,56,96,481.28/-

Last date of submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 18-07-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD Bengaluru

PUB/220/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR · SWRRLY · SWRRLY

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION
Karnataka State Health & Family Welfare Society
Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 23
Ph: 080-23113584 e-mail: pdrch-hfws@karnataka.gov.in

No.: HFWS-NPCB0FILE/21/2024-NHM-NPCB-VI Date: 03.07.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement)

Supply of Multi-Purpose Mobile Ophthalmic Vehicle

KSHFWS invites application from registered eligible Manufactures/Suppliers to submit their proposal through e–procurement portal for supply "Multi-Purpose Mobile Ophthalmic Vehicle" with required necessary documents.

Tender No: NHM/2024-25/IND0019

The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The tender document can be downloaded from "e-procurement portal" from **03/07/2024** onwards and last date for receipt of tender is **25/07/2024 on or before 05.30 PM**

Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours from 11:00AM to 05:00PM

DIPR/CP/BCPL/748/2024-25

Sd/-
Project Director (RCH)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Dr.Srila Sen Subash, w/o.Subash Srinivasan,** has lost the Original Sale dated 23.09.2005, Document No.8083, of Book I, stored in CD.No.BASD187, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, in respect of the schedule property. My client has informed that inspite of their best efforts she was unable to trace the same and has also lodged an online police complaint on dated 02.07.2024 in respect of the same.

If any Person/s find the aforesaid original Sale Deed, they may handover the same to the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of this publication.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of an Apartment bearing **No.B-103,** in First Floor, **Block B,** Raja Rajeshwari Nivas Apartment, constructed on property bearing Municipal No.393/28-29/1, Katha Nos.484 to 495, present Katha No.495, situated at **Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** and flat is bounded on the:

East by : Open to Sky and Apartment No.B-102, 1st Floor, B Block;
West by : Open to Sky and thereafter Private property;
North by : Open to Sky and Apartment No.B-104, 1st Floor, B Block;
South by : Landscape in Ground Floor and thereafter 'A' Block at Rajarajeshwari Nivas;

SAHAI KUMAR, Advocate
#311, 2nd Floor, 3rd Main, 3rd Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore-560078 Mob : 9845090974

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients, Smt. **Lakshmi Bhushan, Varun N. Reddy & Monish N. Reddy (wife & children of Late** Sri. **N. K. Nagbhushan), all r/a No.283, 2nd Main Road, Shanbogh Layout, Doddanekkundi Village, B'lore-37 are the absolute owners of the Site** bg. No.30, Khatha No.81/4, Property No. 84/1, situated at Harischandra Colony, Doddanekkundi, K.R. Pura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, in all measuring 2850 Sq. Feet.

Further the said Varun N. Reddy while travelling, has misplaced/lost the said original Addendum to Sale Agreement dated 10-12-2017 & to that effect, he had lodged Online police (Bengaluru City) complaint on 25-6-2024 (Lost report No. 1114026/2024).

Any finder/or any person having any type of claim may kindly return the above mentioned Original document or file objections to the undersigned **within 7 days** from the date of notice failing which my clients shall presume that the same is lost and shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims/ interest whatsoever from any person/s.

Manjunath, Advocate,
No. 106, 3rd Cross, KK Layout, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Blore-560072. Mobile: 96111 07893.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that, my client **Smt. H.SUVARNA,** w/o Sri. Ramakrishna, aged about 64 years, r/at No.813/17, 4th Cross, 9th Main, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560040, intend to purchase the Residential Property which is fully described in the schedule given hereunder, from **Sri K.M.THIMMAIAH,** s/o Sri. K.P. Muthana, aged about 52 years, r/at No.43 MIG, 6th Main Near Hoysala Circle, 2nd Stage, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bengaluru-560060 and accordingly entered into an Agreement of Sale, dtd:22.06.2024.

Any person/Govt./Local Bodies/Banks claiming any right, title or interest over the said property may inform the same to my client's counsel stated below, in writing within 10 days from today.

If objections are not received within that date my client will go ahead with the purchase and no further objection will be valid after that.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and **parcel of the Residential Property, bearing House No.43-MIG, Old Khatha No.2116, New BBMP Khatha No. 2130/30/43/2116, formed by the Karnataka Housing Board, situated at 2nd Stage, Kengeri Satellite Town Extension, Bengaluru,** measuring East to West (48+50)/2 feet and North to South 45 feet, along with 07 Square RCC Roofed, Cement & Brick Walls, Red Oxide Flooring, Jungle Wood Doors & windows, along with all civil amenities together with all rights, appurtenance whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface **and bounded on the** East by : Road; West by : Private Land; North by : House No.42-MIG; South by : House No.44-MIG.

G.R. Gangadhara, Advocate
186/1, Ground Floor, J.C. Complex Annexe, Sirur Park Road, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020. Mob: +91 9740296679
Email : grgangadhara@gmail.com
Place: Bengaluru Date: 03.07.2024

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 28/2024 Dated 26.06.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Tender No.	Description in brief	Qty.
L8245811	Procurement/Supply/Installation of Stainless- Steel Dust bin (Dry/ Wet) each 100L capacity at Railway station over Bengaluru Division.	765 pairs

Last Date of submission/Tender Due on: 22.07.2024 at 10:30 Hrs.

For Details Log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru

PUB/210/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway-SWR · SWRRLY · southwesternrailway · SWRRLY

Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Nandinagar Bidar

No.EO/KVAFSU/T.No.125/Canteen/2024-25 Date:01.07.2024

TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement portal only)

1) Works /Goods/Services Details: Running Canteen services at Veterinary College/ Dairy Science College/IAH&VB/Regional Office, Hebbal, Bengaluru, 2) Works / Goods/Services estimated Amount: As mentioned e-portal, 3) Contractors eligibility details: As mentioned e-portal, 4) Works/Goods/Services Tender Amount Details: As mentioned e-portal, 5) Cost of tender form and EMD details: Form Fee as per e-portal and EMD Rs.3000.00, 6) Last date for submitting application : 15.07.2024 up to 5.00 PM, 7) Opening of Technical bid: 18.07.2024 at 11.30. AM 8) Opening of financial bid: 19.07.2024 at 11.30. AM, 9) For more details contact office address, contract numbers: Office of the Estate Officer KVAFSU, Nandinagar, Bidar 08482-245446, 10) Website details e-procurement portal- https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Bidar/50/KSMC&A/2024-25

Sd/- Estate Officer
KVAFSU, Bidar

JHARKHAND URJA SANCHARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)
(GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND UNDERTAKING)
OFFICE: General Manager, Contracts & Materials, Multi-Lateral Funding Projects,
JUSNL Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi – 834002 (Jharkhand)
Email: piujusnl@gmail.com Visit us on: www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in

e-Tender Extension Notice

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the following NITs are hereby extended:-

NIT No.	Name of work (Request for Bid (RfB))	Last date of submission/ uploading bid by the bidder	Date of Opening of technical part of Bid
28/PR/ JUSNL/ 2024-25	Design, Engineering, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 220/132 kV Grid Substations at Jadugoda and additional 132 kV Bays at Dhalbhumgarh GSS along with dismantling Works)	18.07.2024 upto 16:00 Hrs	19.07.2024 at 16:30 Hrs
29/PR/ JUSNL/ 2024-25	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 220 KV Double Circuit Transmission Lines (1)Transmission line from Chaibasa (PGCIL) – Jadugoda (New) (47.7 km) (2)Transmission line from Chandil (New)- Jadugoda (New) (51.3 Km)	18.07.2024 upto 16:00 Hrs	19.07.2024 at 16:30 Hrs
30/PR/ JUSNL/ 2024-25	Design, Engineering, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 132 KV Double Circuit Transmission Lines from Jadugoda(New)- Dhalbhumgarh (63.4 Km)	18.07.2024 upto 16:00 Hrs	19.07.2024 at 16:30 Hrs

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।

Sd/-
General Manager
C&M, MLFP, JUSNL, Ranchi

PR No. 326276 PR 328511 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(24-25)D

ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ)
ನಿಗಮ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ಚಾವಿಸನಿನಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570017
Telephone No: 0821-2544963

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office,
CESC, Mysuru-570017
Web Site: www.cescmysore.org.
E-mail ID:gmproc@cescmysore.org
Company Identity Number[CIN]:- U40109KA2004SGC035177
NO: GM(Proc)/EE(C)/AEE(C)/AE(C)/M.Z/2024-25/6095,97&93 Date:27.06.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

[e-procurement mode]

General Manager(Procurement), Corporate Office, CESC, Mysuru on behalf of CESC invites tender for the following Civil Engineering Works from eligible contractors.

Sl. No	Enquiry No.	Description of Work	Amount put to Tender (Rs. In Lakhs)
1.	CESC/GM(Proc)/ 2024-25/CVL-02 D: 18.06.2024.	Construction of CESC Guest House at Kesare colony premises, Mysuru.	250.59
2.	CESC/GM(Proc)/ 2024-25/ CVL-03 D: 26.06.2024.	Construction of Compound wall, approach road & other allied works to the Home office for Managing director, CESC at Jyothinagara, Mysuru.	76.18
3.	CESC/GM(Proc)/ 2024-25/ CVL-04, D:26.06.2024.	Construction of Compound wall, approach road & other allied works to the CESC Guest House at Kesare Colony premises, Mysuru	71.98

The tender documents will be available on or after 04.07.2024the details regarding participating in the tender can be obtained through e-Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in.For more detailscontact 9448994927/98663599999 or email addressaeecivilcesc@gmail.com.The prospective bidders can obtain further details from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- General Manager (Procurement), Corporate Office, CESC, Mysuru.
DIPR/DDMYS-209/KSMCA-147/2024-25

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MUDA 'scam' puts CM under the scanner ahead of House session

Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh says he had issued orders against allotting sites under the controversial 50:50 scheme in October and December 2023, but the process continued. The scheme was introduced in November 2020

Laiqh A. Khan
MYSURU

Notwithstanding Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's clarification that the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) had allotted residential sites to his wife, Parvathi, in lieu of the land acquired by it for developing a residential layout, the alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the authority to land-losers remain controversial and are expected to give fodder to the Opposition for attacking the ruling dispensation during the upcoming legislature session.

How CM's family figures

Mr. Siddaramaiah's wife owned about 3 acres and 16 guntas of land at Kesare near the Outer Ring Road in the northern part of Mysuru city. After developing Devanur 3rd Stage, also known as Rajeev Nagar 3rd Stage, on the land belonging to Ms. Parvathi and distributing the sites created in the layout, MUDA in 2021 ordered allotment of residential sites measuring a total of 38,284 sq. ft, under its 50:50 scheme for land-losers, to her.

Under the 50:50 scheme brought in by MUDA in November 2020, land-losers are entitled to 50% of the developed land. Out of every acre of undeveloped land, about 23,000 to 24,000 sq. ft of developed land is available for residential sites while the remaining is set aside for utilities. "So, under the 50:50 scheme, the available developed land is equally divided among MUDA and the land-loser, each of whom is entitled to around 11,500 to 12,000 sq. ft for every acre," said sources in MUDA.

But, MUDA's decision to allot 14 sites residential sites measuring a total of 38,284 sq. ft. to Ms. Parvathi at its Vijayanagar 3rd and 4th Stage layouts situated in the southern part of Mysuru has raised questions. For, the market value of residential sites at Devanur 3rd Stage layout in northern and northeastern parts of the city is much less compared to that of sites at Vijayanagar 3rd and 4th Stage layouts. Mr. Siddaramaiah, however, has claimed that MUDA allotted sites at Vijayanagar as sites were not available in Devanur 3rd Stage layout. Also, he has emphasised that the alternative sites were allotted to his wife under the 50:50 scheme during the BJP regime.

A file photo of the Mysuru Urban Development Authority office in Mysuru.

CM: Site allotment under scheme put on hold

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said housing sites distributed by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) under the controversial 50:50 scheme have been put on hold pending an investigation into alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the authority.

Probe

Replying to a question of reporters on the issue, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the government would come to know about irregularities in the allotment of sites by MUDA only through the probe. There was no loss to the government or MUDA, he said.

All MUDA officials involved in the alleged scam have been shunted out from the authority. The Chief Minister rejected the BJP's demand for a CBI probe into the alleged land scam in Mysuru. "Let the BJP disclose how many times and into which scams their government had ordered the CBI probe," he said.

On the Leader of the Opposition's demand for his resignation, the Chief Minister shot back and asked, "What role do I have in the case?"

Problems with scheme

The 50:50 scheme introduced by MUDA in November 2020 came under severe criticism from various quarters several months ago, forcing the State government to issue orders against allotting sites under it to land-losers.

Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh said he issued orders to MUDA against allotting sites under the scheme in October and December 2023. But, allotment of sites to land-losers under the scheme continued. A large number of sites had allegedly been allotted illegally to persons claiming to be land-losers. Apart from the role of middlemen, the active connivance of MUDA officials has been suspected in the alleged scam.

Apart from the role of middlemen, active connivance of MUDA officials has been suspected in the alleged scam

MLA for Krishnaraja T.S. Srivatsa shared copies of MUDA ordering allotment of sites to two land-losers. In one of the orders dated June 15, 2024, then MUDA Commissioner Dinesh Kumar awarded 98,206 sq. ft of developed land to the heir of the original owner of the 8.14 acres of land that had been acquired by MUDA for the development of Gokulam layout. The acquisition proceedings for Gokulam layout in Mysuru started in 1968.

In another order, dated October 7, 2023, the MUDA Commissioner had awarded a total of 81,670 sq. ft of developed land to the wife of the owner of a parcel of land measuring 7.03 acres to acquire which MUDA had started proceedings in 1989.

Mr. Srivatsa said the orders issued by MUDA for allotting such large parcels of developed land in the upmarket residential layouts in the city in lieu of the land whose physical possession MUDA had taken several years ago had several loopholes. "In one case, the application for allotment of land by the land-loser had been made after the actual orders were issued," he said.

In some instances, land-losers had been allotted sites far in excess of their entitlement, according to sources. If a land-loser is entitled to 30 sites of 30x40 ft dimension in accordance with the quantum of land acquired by MUDA, she or he would be allotted 60 sites of 30x40 dimension.

Incentive sites

Large-scale irregularities are also believed to have been committed during the allotment of incentive sites. Though one incentive site was meant to be given to land-losers in addition to the cash compensation, it has been alleged that multiple incentive sites had been allotted to persons for the same land.

"Fraudsters traced farmers who had received compensation for their land long ago and made them apply for incentive sites. After the allotment, the sites were bought from such farmers for a small amount of money and sold in the market," said a source familiar with the MUDA scam.

The four-member inquiry committee headed by Commissioner, Urban Development Authorities, Venkatachalapathi R., an IAS officer, is expected to go through all the allotments for land-losers under the 50:50 and incentive schemes and cancel illegal allotments. The committee has been given 15 days to submit the report and it is expected to be ready just as the legislature session begins on July 15.

'Irregularities': BJP ups the ante against govt.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra and C.T. Ravi, MLC, being taken into custody during a protest in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Demanding a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation and Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), the Opposition BJP upped ante against the State government by trying to lay siege to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's official residence here on Wednesday seeking his resignation.

The police stopped the BJP leaders and workers who were marching towards Mr. Siddaramaiah's residence, and detained them.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra, who led the protest, told media persons that the true colours of the Congress had been exposed, citing the alleged irregularities.

Alleging that irregularities to the tune of ₹4,000 crore in MUDA in the Chief Minister's home district of Mysuru, Mr. Vijayendra argued that such large-scale fraud would not have taken place without Mr. Siddaramaiah's knowledge.

He wondered how the Chief Minister's wife could be given 15 alternative sites in exchange of her land that was given to MUDA, without permission from the authorities concerned.

Fearing tampering of the files concerned, he demanded that the probe be handed over to any Central investigation agency.

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok alleged that alternative sites had been allotted to the Chief Minister's wife in an upmarket area, which had higher property value as compared to the location of her land that had been acquired by MUDA. He demanded that allotment of alternative sites should be cancelled.

He alleged that the government had failed to respond to the Mysuru Deputy Commissioner, who had written 15 letters to the Urban Development Department drawing attention to irregularities in MUDA. This had showed the involvement of politically influential persons in these irregularities, he argued.

Since the legislature session is set to commence soon, he declared that the BJP would take up a fight both inside and outside the legislature demanding the resignation of the Chief Minister, as well as a CBI probe into the two cases.

'Channapatna will become part of Bengaluru'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Appealing to voters ahead of the announcement of the byelection to the Channapatna Assembly constituency, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday said Channapatna would become part of Bengaluru under his leadership.

Speaking to reporters after the 'Government at your doorstep' programme at Channapatna in Ramanagara district, Mr. Shivakumar said, "We are all from Bengaluru district. We don't have to lose the name, wait for a couple of days. You may check the textbooks on all our origins. Hoskote, Devanahalli, Magadi, and Kanakapura all belong to Bengaluru."

Asked about Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's promise that he would make Ramanagara and Channapatna twin cities, Mr. Shivakumar said, "He was the Chief minister twice, why did he not fulfil his promises? I will keep my word."

Earlier promise

In October 2023, Mr. Shivakumar talked about preserving the "Bengaluru identity" of people living in the region around the capital and proposed renaming Ramanagara district as "Bengaluru South".

"I urge the voters to strengthen our party by electing a Congress MLA for Channapatna. It will strengthen our hands to roll out all our plans for the taluk... We will address all your pleas by holding meetings with various departments," he said.

CM approves completion of 1.29 lakh houses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday approved the completion of 1.29 lakh houses being constructed for poor families by the Karnataka Slum Development Board and the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation under the 'Housing for All' scheme.

The government would bear the beneficiary contribution and provide financial assistance in phases to complete these houses.

During a progress review meeting of the Housing Department, Mr. Siddaramaiah instructed Finance Department officials to assess the financial requirements for the different stages of the construction of 1,29,457 houses. He directed them to determine the maximum possible funding for this year and the required amount for the next year. However, he mandated that beneficiaries must contribute ₹1 lakh each.

Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan brought the plight of poor families to the attention of the Chief Minister, leading to the decision that the government would cover ₹4 lakh per beneficiary family's contribution.

Manjunath urges Nadda to sanction polytrauma centre at NIMHANS Bengaluru North

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Rural MP C.N. Manjunath has urged Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda to accord sanction for establishing a postgraduate institute and a 300-bed polytrauma centre at NIMHANS Bengaluru North.

Dr. Manjunath, who met the Union Health Minister recently and submitted a concept note on the proposal, said the polytrauma centre would ensure timely treatment to needy patients at an affordable cost.

C.N. Manjunath

Stating that the outpatient footfall at NIMHANS, the country's premier mental health institution, had increased from around 250 patients a day to 2,500 a day now, the doctor-turned-politician said the hospital was overcrowded and was not able to cope with the load of patients.

"Road traffic accidents are the fifth leading cause of death in our country. Patients with multiple injuries require immediate treatment in the golden hour. Nearly 13% of deaths are due to road traffic accidents. Because of space constraints and the non-availability of polytrauma services, critical patients are shifted from NIMHANS to other hospitals. Some of them die during transit and hence the reputation of the institution is also at stake," he said. "Majority of patients coming to this hospital are from poor social-economic strata and cannot afford the expensive treatment in private hospitals. It is the long-standing desire of the people of Karnataka to have a polytrauma centre at NIMHANS North campus in Bengaluru. In this regard, the State government has already allotted 37 acres of land and the above proposal has been approved by the governing body of the institution with many revisions and re-revisions. But it has not seen the light for almost 11 years," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients are desirous of purchasing the Schedule Property from Sri.Laxman Shabhunath Vaswani Alias Laxman Vaswani, Aged about 56 years, S/o.Sri.Shabhunath Hiranand Vaswani, 80, Nathan Road, Majestic House UA, TST, Kowloon, Hong Kong, who had acquired the Schedule Property, from M/s.Prestige Constructions, under a Sale Deed dated 08.12.2004, We are in the process of securitizing the title to the Schedule Property.

Any person/s having any manner of claims/objections for the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property, may lodge their claim/s, objection/s, with the undersigned, with documentary evidence within Ten **(10) days** from the date of this publication. Any claims/ objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/ objections.

SCHEDULE-PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing No.53, (Old Katha No.439/53), Presently E-Swathu bearing No.370/439/53, and Property No.150200200600300380, assigned by Rajanakunte Grama Panchayath, Yelahanka Block, Bangalore District, (formed out of various Sy.Nos. of Adde Vishwanthapura Village, Hesarghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, in the residential Layout known as **"PRESTIGE NORTH WEST COUNTY"**, measuring 10252 Sq.ft, which is described as Schedule-D in the Sale Deed dated 08.12.2004, and bounded on:East by: Private Property; West by:Road in Prestige North West County;North by: Property No.52 in Prestige North West County;South by: Property No.54 in Prestige North West County.

Y.S.H.Reddy, Advocate
No.503, 1st Floor, Sai Leela Suites, 1st Main, 7th Cross, H.M.T.Layout, Parallel to 80 Feet Road, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru- 560 032.
Mobile: 98863 78570.

KSSIDC KARNATAKA STATE SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Concern)

A.O. Building, Industrial Estate, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010
Phone: 080-23407011-25 E-mail: kssidcho@gmail.com / chiefengineerkssidc@gmail.com

No: ENGG:SE ep-85:Balance Upgradation:DPRConsultancy:2024-25
Date: 02-07-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Tender Document System)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Superintending Engineer, on behalf of the Managing Director, KSSIDC Ltd., Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, through e-procurement system (e-procurement portal) invites (Technical electronic documents first and financial electronic documents second) item rates tenders from eligible contractors registered with Karnataka PWD, CPWD for the Work detailed in Sl.No. 1 and for appointing eligible interested bidder/consultants for the work detailed in Sl.No. 2 of the Table given below. Details of works are as follows vide notification No: **ENGG:SE ep-85:Balance Upgradation: DPRConsultancy:2024-25 Dated 02-07-2024**

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Apprx. Project Cost in Lakhs	E.M.D in Lakhs.
1	Balance Upgradation of infrastructure works by construction RCC Drain, Asphalting to existing road, formation of new road and allied works at Industrial Estate Sindagi, Vijayapura Dist.	260.00	3.90
2	Selection of consultancy services for preparation of DPR's including surveys, designs, drawings, estimates and reports for various works in KSSIDC for a period of 1 year.	5000.00	1.00

Tender shall be submitted along with EMD by logging in to e-procurement website: **https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in** (Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation Limited) through e-procurement portal. The document may be downloaded from **03-07-2024 at 16.00 hours onwards.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Availability of Tender Document from **03.07.2024, 16.00 Hours onwards. (2)** Date of Pre Tender meeting at the office Superintendent Engineer on: **09.07.2024 at 12.00 Hours. (3)** Last Date for Receipt of Tender: **05-08-2024 upto 16.00 Hours. (4)** Date of Opening of Technical electronic Document first is on **07.08.2024 at 16.00 Hours. (5)** Date of Opening of Financial electronic document second will be after Approval of Technical Electronic document First through e-Procurement.

Further information may be obtained from the Superintending Engineer during office hours or through e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** e-procurement cell helpdesk (Tel Ph No: 080-25501227 / 25501216).

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer

DIPR/CP/751/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, MR. SHANMUGAM A.M., S/O. MR. MUTHAIAH, is the absolute owner of the property described in Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property, from the above said respective owner. All persons having any claim against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office at No. 276, Ground Floor, 12th Main, 5th Cross, Sector 5, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560 102, **within 10 days from the date of publication hereof,** failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residentially converted land bearing **Sy. No. 40/2, measuring 0-07.12 Guntas or 8439 Sq. ft.,** out of 0-18.08 Guntas (Converted from agricultural to non-agricultural purpose vide Official Memorandum dated 21.09.2011 bearing No.ALN:(SB): BH)SR: 28/11-12 issued by the office of Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District) situated at Chikkathoguru Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, presently coming under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, bearing BBMP Khata No. 383/1/40/2, and bounded on the:- **East by :**Private Property; **West by** : Remaining portion of Sy. No. 40/2; **North by** : Road; **South by:** Passage.

Dated this 4th day of July 2024 at Bangalore,

RASHMI D, Advocate,
276, GROUND FLOOR, 12TH Main, 5th Cross, Sector 5, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560 102, Mobile: 9480492319.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is purchasing residential vacant site bearing BDA No. 288 situated at Nagavara, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, formed by Vyalikaval House Building Co-operative Society Limited, now within BBMP jurisdiction and Ward No.23, measuring East to West 24. 38 meters or 80 feet and North to South 18.44 + 20.12/2 meters, or 60.5 + 66.0/2 feet totally, measuring about 470.05 square meters or 5060 square feet from **Sri B.S. Sunil,** Son of Sri B.S. Srinivas, Aged about 54 years, No. 1028/1, 25th Main, 13th Cross, Banashankari II Stage, Bengaluru-560070.

Any persons having any right, title or interest or any objection over the said sale transaction in respect of the schedule property shall furnish in writing with documents their claims to the undersigned Counsel ***within 10 days*** from the date of this notice, falling which my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction and any claims thereafter will not be considered.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the **residential vacant site bearing BDA No. 288** situated at **Nagavara, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, formed by Vyalikaval House Building Co-operative Society Limited,** now within BBMP jurisdiction and Ward No. 23, measuring **East to West 24.38 meters or 80 feet and North to South 18.44 + 20.12/2 meters, or 60.5 + 66.0/2 feet** totally, measuring **about 470.05 square meters or 5060 square feet** and the site is bounded as follows:

East by: Road,
West by: Site No. 315 and 316
North by: Site No. 289
South by: Road

Sd/-
S. Vasanth Madhav, Advocate,
No. 18/8, 'Vishal Towers' 1st Floor, 1st Main, 16th Cross, S. R. Nagar Bangalore-560 027.
Phone: 9243132984, 080-22103047
Email: vasanthmadhavoffice@gmail.com

Potholes remain Bengaluru's bane

In January 2023, the BBMP claimed to have closed all potholes, but traffic police identified over 1,000 of them on the main roads in the last week of December

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Bengaluru roads are infamous for potholes that have sometimes been life-threatening to motorists, especially during the monsoon season. Despite receiving moderate rain this season so far, commuters have already witnessed multiple potholes across the city.

A new app

In December 2022, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) launched FixMyStreet app for road infrastructure-related issues. In January 2023, the BBMP claimed to have closed all potholes, but traffic police identified over 1,000 potholes on the main roads in the last week of December. Similarly, amidst the growing pothole menace, a few weeks ago the BBMP announced that it is gearing up to launch a new app, PACE (Pothole Assistance Citizen Engagement), a platform to report potholes on the city streets.

According to data provided by the BBMP, there were about 5,500 potholes till May 22, on June 4, 253 more potholes were identified by the civic body. Post the identification, the BBMP claimed that it had filled 2,652 potholes by June 4.

However, less than a month since the potholes were closed, 424 more potholes were identified on July 1 by the BBMP. Of these, 94 potholes in R.R. Nagar zone are the highest, followed by 84 in the West zone, 69 in Dasarahalli, 61 in Yelahanka, and 34 and 32 potholes in South and Mahadevapura zones, respectively. Surprisingly though many potholes are to be seen in areas like Shivajinagar, Shanthinagar, Pulakeshinagar, Hebbal and other areas, the BBMP claims that as on July 1, there were zero potholes in the East zone. From May 22 to July 1, the civic body has identified 6,177 potholes in the city.

The BBMP, being the sole body in charge of the city's road infrastructure, has not been able to come up with a solid solution for a problem that has been consistent for many years. When *The Hindu* asked the BBMP's Chief Engineer for road infrastructure, B.S. Prahalad, on what the BBMP would do to physically put an end to the recurring issue, he refused to respond.

Number of potholes in different zones as of July 1

Bommanahalli	Dasarahalli	East	Mahadevapura	RR Nagar	South	West	Yelahanka	Total
50	69	0	32	94	34	84	61	424

Bad condition of a road after a spell of rain at Laggere on July 3, 2024. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Motorists negotiating bad stretches of Bannerghatta Road along the Namma Metro's Pink Line corridor, the work on which is under way. K. MURALI KUMAR

Vehicle users find it difficult especially in the night to drive on the bad stretch of the 30th Main Road at Banashankari in Bengaluru. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

A pothole on Ring Road near K.R. Puram. SUDHAKARA JAIN

A damaged footpath near Vijayanagar. SUDHAKARA JAIN

A pit dug up in Jakkur Main Road posing a threat to motorists and pedestrians. SUDHAKARA JAIN

A heartfelt clowning comedy on body image and friendship

'Hang-in-There' talks about women's bodies and how their body shapes make them conscious of what they wear

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Clowning, an art form that started centuries ago, has become a fond art form for many theatre makers in Bengaluru. With growing clowning pieces for children and adults, PB Theatre has come up with a new play titled *Hang-in-There*, to be performed at Bangalore International Centre (BIC), Domlur, on July 4, at 7 p.m.

The piece is a theatrical clowning show that talks about the world of a grumpy clown's boutique and what happens when a Kathak clown dances right into it as a customer. It talks about women's bodies and how their body shapes make them conscious of what they wear. It makes a statement on the ideal body type which also has to do with how the fashion design industry moulds everyone's perception about clothing.

Unique designs

Hang-in-There starts off with an introduction to an elegant owner-clown, whose passion for fashion drives her to create unique designs that defy convention. When the graceful Kathak-clown enters her shop seeking the perfect outfit for her performance, their encounter sets off a chain of hilarious misadventures. As the owner-clown showcases her quirky designs, the Kathak-clown struggles with insecurities about her body image, leading to a series of comical fights and follies. However, amidst the chaos, a heartwarming friendship begins to blossom between the two clowns, as they learn to embrace each other's quirks and celebrate the joy of living in the moment.

The play is performed by Kalyan Mudris, Jaydev Bhanushali, Nia Shah, Mayuri Ravindra, Snigdha Mukta, and Paridi Bhandari who is also the director of the play. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Paridhi says the play highlights the importance of self-acceptance and learning to embrace yourself.

"The play taps on the themes of friendship', self-acceptance and pursuing one's dreams woven throughout the story. The Kathak-clown's struggles with body image insecurities highlight the importance of self-acceptance and learning to embrace oneself, flaws and all. The owner-clown's passion for fashion and her determination to create unique designs reflect the theme of pursuing one's dreams despite obstacles or setbacks," she says.

Immersive journey

This is not just a play; it's an immersive journey into the world of laughter, friendship, and fashion. With its unique blend of physical comedy, audience engagement, and thought-provoking themes, it is an unforgettable experience for all. Each moment of the play is infused with energy, creativity, and heart," she adds.

Performed in gibberish, for anyone over the age of 15, entry for the 75-minute show is based on RSVP through the BIC website or through this link https://tinyurl.com/yncptwsn.

The play is an immersive journey into the world of laughter, friendship, and fashion.

A still from the play *Hang-in-There*.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 4, 1974

Crash Plan for Jobs in Belgaum Given Up

Belgaum, July 3: The crash plan for rural employment, a Centrally sponsored scheme started in 1971 with a view to providing job opportunities to the rural population, has been given up. According to Mr. P.R. Dubashi, the Divisional Commissioner of Belgaum, no allocation had been received for the current year but instructions had been issued to complete pending works. Mr. Dubashi said many other schemes with the same objective were being implemented now.

The latest one was the self-employment scheme, the project report of which had already been sent to the Government for its study, he said.

No Cut in Ration Supplies Planned

Bangalore, July 3: The Directorate of Food and Civil Supplies in Karnataka clarified here to-day that no cut had been imposed on rationed articles supplied through fair price depots to card holders in Bangalore and there were no such proposals before the Government.

The Directorate has asked the consumers to immediately report if fair price shops were spreading rumors or turning ration card holders away on the "mischievous and unfounded plea of cut in the ration".

A few reports had been received by the Directorate towards the end of last month that some fair price shop owners had turned the card holders away stating that the rations had been cut by ten per cent.

Saluting Basavanagudi's legends

Did you know a slew of Indian medical professionals hailed from Basavangudi? Vintage Salute pays homage to their work with a photo exhibition

Rashmi Gopal Rao

Down the ages From Vintage Salute, an exhibition of doctors hailing from Basavanagudi, Maya Chandra (below). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A leafy neighbourhood steeped in history and heritage, Basavanagudi is one of the oldest localities of the city. While it is synonymous with the Bull temple, *kadlekai parshe* (annual groundnut fair) and the vibrant Gandhi Bazaar, did you know it was also home to several stalwarts from the field of medicine?

For instance, the first lady surgeon of India hailed from Basavanagudi as did the first eye surgeon of Mysore State. Some of these doctors were the founding members of renowned institutions such as Vani Vilas Hospital and Bangalore Medical College, while others served as personal doctors to dignitaries such as the President of India, Nizam of Hyderabad and Mysore Maharaja.

Celebrating the legacy of these achievers who scaled great heights despite all odds is Vintage Salute, a curated photo exhibition of these doctors who practiced in Basavanagudi from the 1940s to the 1980s. It was conceptualised by Maya Chandra, founder-director of Maya Films, a history buff and an old-time resident of Basavanagudi herself.

Inspiring journeys

The photo exhibition covers the journey of 34 doctors who were all trailblazers in their own right, many of them having completed their LMP (Licensed Medical Practitioner) degree before Independence. They pursued specialisations abroad on scholarships despite their humble backgrounds.

"As a native of Basavanagudi and having been treated by neighbourhood doctors, I always knew we had several of them amidst us. Looking back, I cannot help but feel immense gratitude to their contribution to our lives. So, on the occasion of Doctor's Day this year, I thought it would be a great idea to pay tribute to medical practitioners from our locality. Their stories needed to be told as an inspiration for all of us, including present-day doctors," says Maya.

The exhibition covers the key milestones of these doctors from diverse fields and includes professionals from Allopathy, Homeopathy, Ayurveda and mental health streams. The photos are a treasure trove of information. One gets to see Dr Y N Krishnamurthy (1890 - 1975) who did his schooling from Fort High school, Chamrajpet and studied Radiology at Edinburgh University after his education at Presidency College, Madras. He was one of the first Indians to specialise in Radiology abroad and was commissioned by the Maharaja of Mysore to establish Karnataka's first Radiology Department at Victoria Hospital.

Then, there is Dr B N Balakrishna Rao (1910-1995) – the first to perform neurosurgeries in India and was appointed as the honorary surgeon to President of India. The life of Dr B V Ramaswamy who practiced in Gandhi Bazaar from 1952-1994 is as interesting as it is inspiring as apart from practice at his clinic, he would go on house visits every morning, earning himself the title of "poor man's doctor".

Stories of grit and determination

The exhibition also pays homage to remarkable lady doctors such as Dr Nagamma, Dr Kamalamma, Dr Ratnamma Issac, Dr Chandramma Sagar, Dr Sulochana Gunasheela and Dr Radha. Both Dr Kamalamma and Dr Nagamma were child widows and the fact that they chose to serve society in those days when ostracisation of widows was common is testimony to their resilient spirit.

Dr Kamalamma, who had her own clinic in the locality, and travelled in a horse carriage in the 1940s, also assisted in numerous home deliveries of babies. Dr Nagamma who completed her LMP in 1927, was conferred with the President of India Award.

"My mother often consulted Dr Nagamma and I would tag along as a little child. Little did I know that she was such a great personality; this exhibition is indeed an eye-opener," says septuagenarian Parimala SA, a long-time resident of Basavangudi who visited the exhibition.

Padma Shri recipient Dr M Mary Ratnamma Isaac born in 1887, was India's first lady surgeon who trained at the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) in the United Kingdom and dedicated her life to healthcare and social service.

Apart from Dr Chandramma Sagar who was the first woman to complete a triple FRCS from London, Edinburgh and Glasgow, the exhibition also pays tribute to Dr Sulochana Gunasheela, who introduced laparoscopy and ultrasound scanning in Karnataka and In-Vitro Fertilization technique (IVF) in South India. She delivered South India's first IVF baby in 1988.

Extensive research

According to Maya, putting together the exhibition entailed hours of detailed research and connecting with old-time residents, friends and families of Basavanagudi, apart from personally visiting their residences and clinics to collect information. "While I got a lot of names when I put out a request on a FB group, no one gave me any actual contacts. With the help of my research team led by my Radha Rao, we visited the families of many of these doctors who gave us a lot of material," says Maya.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr Vivek Jawali who also began his career in Basavanagudi during the 1980s. It was followed by an engaging panel discussion titled, Carrying the Legacy Forward: Inspiration & Challenges, with Dr Praveen Murthy, Dr Padmini Issac, Dr Devika Gunasheela, Dr Sanjay Gururaj Rao, Dr Aditya, Dr Ramdas and Dr Saraschandra Singh. All the panel members hail from the families of the doctors featured in the exhibition.

Vintage Salute is on till July 7 at the Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi

CITYBEATS

Choco loco

JULY 7
Magnolia Bakery is celebrating Chocolate Day with a range of desserts centred around the star of the day. Hot chocolate cupcake, double fudge brownie, chocolate cake with chocolate buttercream cake, truffle cake slice, brownie caramel banana pudding are some of their creations one can indulge in.
At Magnolia, Indiranagar

Celebrating K-culture

ONGOING
SOCIAL is presenting a month-long celebration of everything Korean. Called 'Kore-yeah', it brings K-culture and K-food, K-drinks and K-pop to the city. One can attend a Kimchi-making workshop, learn K-Pop dance, browse through pop-up markets and more.
On at all SOCIAL outlets across the city till July 31, 9am to 12.30am

Monsoon delight

ONGOING
This menu, called Monsoon Magic, celebrates the Varsha Rutu Festival. Indulge your palate in khichdi of varied avataars – cheesy hari bhari khichdi, rajwadi khichdi, vaghareli khichdi, spicy kathiyawadi khichdi. These are served with pakoras, curd, pickle and papad.
On at all Rajdhani outlets in the city. Call 9930091550 for details.

Portrait of a photographer

Ruth Dhanaraj

In Memoriam Navroze Contractor (centre), images from the show. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Navroze Contractor was a world renown photographer and cinematographer from Ahmedabad who had made Bengaluru his home. A series of events titled Photography Strictly Prohibited, encapsulating the genius of his artistic abilities, marks the first year anniversary of his death as well as his birthday. He would have turned 80 on July 7, this year.

Curated by Sanjiv Shah, Anuj Ambalal and Himanshu Panchal, the exhibition will showcase photographs Navroze took over a period of 60 years, many of which have not been seen previously.

"We had travelled a lot together while working on various projects. A couple of years ago, I talked to him about a retrospective and he laughed it off saying retrospectives were "an end of career" activity. I countered that saying we'd title it a mid-career retrospective," recalls Anuj Ambalal.

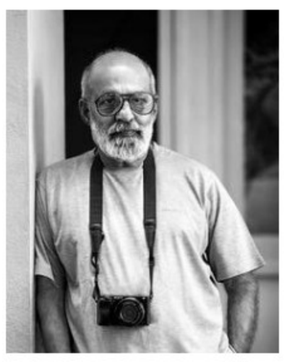
However, Navroze was "quite keen on doing a book on his work," Anuj says, adding that on hearing of his demise, "One of the first things that came to my mind was to do this retrospective."

"Sanjiv was a dear friend of Navroze's and they enjoyed a long association on both personal and professional levels. So he knew a lot about the photographs that we began browsing through for this show."

Between the three of them, they viewed more than 20,000 photos over a period of about six to nine months, to organise the exhibition and the publication. The result is Photography Strictly Prohibited.

"If we were to summarise this curation, I would say there came a point when we realised that intuitively, the three of us were structuring it in such a way that it was more about Navroze than his work," says Anuj.

According to Sanjiv Shah, Navroze never really followed a theme when engaging in his craft, with the exception of his work on jazz musicians which is on display at the Smithsonian in Washington DC. "He always carried a camera; it was rare to see him without one. Yet, I don't think he was keen on showing his work to people; he shot whatever he thought to be relevant," he says.



Sanjiv adds that the book, also titled *Photography Strictly Prohibited* is a compilation of Navroze's works and two interviews – one on the shooting of his film *Duvidha*, and the other on his jazz images. "We have also included some of his writings, which give an idea of why he was doing what he did. It is our modest attempt to give viewers an insight into Navroze as a person."

The exhibition will travel across India with a longer halt in Ahmedabad in October. For updates follow ambalalanuj on Instagram.

Photography Strictly Prohibited will be in Bengaluru from July 5 to 7. The book *Photography Strictly Prohibited* will be on display for pre-order. For details log on to bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Chitrapata looks at Ramayana from a folk perspective

Shilpa Anandraj

Dedicated to theatre Manjunath L Badiger and a still from the play. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Samasthi, an amateur theatre group in Bengaluru, will stage *Chitrapata*. Originally written in Kannada, HS Venkatesha Murthy's *Chitrapata Ramayana* looks at the epic from the folk perspective. Manjunath L Badiger, a Ninasam graduate, says, "*Chitrapata* is not the story of Valmiki's Ramayana."

There are traces of Helavanakatte Giriyamma's poetic works in the play, Manjunath says. "The author has adopted a style where the story is narrated using Pattachitra, a traditional painting from Odisha. Pictures and folk songs and dances form an integral part of the play."

Chitrapata draws heavily from the devotees of goddess Yellamma, who are called Bhootaes, says Manjunath, who was first introduced to theatre through a street play workshop in Benglauru two decades ago.

"The troupe was called Madhyam, spearheaded by Jayatheertha, who is a well-known Kannada film director. My theatre journey began there." The director, lives in Mangaluru, but travels for theatre. "Samasthi and I complete 25 years in 2025." Manjunath, Jayateertha and Ravindra Poojari, a chartered accountant founded Samasthi in 2000. "Poojari is passionate about theatre and Jayateertha, is also actively involved with our theatre troupe," says Manjunath.

Though the financial rewards in theatre are slim, Manjunath prefers to live within limited means and work without expectations. "I dream of giving my full time to theatre and motivating people passionate about theatre to do the same," says Manjunath, who has worked as a guest lecturer in universities and with other theatre groups.

The folk approach to the epics, Manjunath says, looks at Rama and Sita not as deities but as people. "This perspective, allows a different dimension for the Ramayana. For instance, being suspicious is not limited to mortals, but Rama and Sita as well!"

The play depicts an imaginary scenario after the coronation of Rama in Ayodhya, where Chandranakhi plots to make Ravana appear again in Sita's quarters. "The goal of a story is to remove darkness and show the light. It also talks of the atrocities women face every day and motivates audience to assess and review the perspective from which women view men, and how men need to view women."

Manjunath has been a part of Ninasam's Tirugata (travelling theatre) and is a trained Yakshagana dancer from the Udupi Yakshagana Kendra. "I understand we are touchy when it comes to our epics and deities, but this is a folk perspective, which thrives in our villages. I wish people keep an open mind and understand what is being staged."

The author of *Chitrapata*, Manjunath says, is closely associated with Malladihalli's Anatha Sevashrama School. "The school approached us to direct this play, which was originally planned for the students and teaching faculty of their school and we also staged it through Samasthi."

The play will be staged on July 6, at Rangashankara. Tickets are available at the venue and BookMyShow

Sitaram Yechury,

CPI(M) to take up corrective steps in Kerala after drubbing in LS election

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] is reportedly planning to take corrective steps to address the erosion of its core vote base in Kerala, the only State where it is in power in the country, in view of the party's poor performance in the recent Lok Sabha polls.

The areas where such steps should be taken are being communicated to party functionaries during zonal-level meetings attended by party general secretary Sitaram Yechury, Prakash Karat and other senior leaders.

The meetings are primarily aimed at conveying the party central committee's review of the poll results after examining the reports presented by various State committees. The meeting covering Kozhikode, Palakkad, Malappuram and Wayanad was held in Kozhikode on Wednesday.

The central committee has reportedly directed the party cadre to regain the trust of the people, including its core working class constituency.

Will rebuild Amaravati city as soon as possible: Naidu

CM says that he has to consult with Singapore government whether it is willing to take up project, adding that YSRCP ruined everything in the past five years; he released White Paper on Amaravati

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has asserted that he will rebuild the capital city in the quickest possible time by removing the hurdles in its path, including legal, one by one and striving to restore the much-needed investors' confidence.

Releasing a White Paper on "Amaravati- The people's capital" on Wednesday, Mr. Naidu said that he has to consult the Singapore government to see if it would collaborate with the State government again in taking the capital project forward under the changed circumstances.

"Bringing them back is not so easy as they have apparently lost confidence in the Andhra Pradesh government. Who would risk their money on projects like ours? They would lend their expertise to several other countries and States (like A.P.) in the world. Here is a situation where international governments and potential investors will ask what guarantee can we give that everything will be fine, after having a bad experience in the last five years. We need to introspect if such persons (like Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy) should occupy a public office ever," he said.

N. Chandrababu Naidu giving a presentation after releasing a White Paper on Amaravati on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Naidu said he would seek the Centre's cooperation to rebuild Amaravati and exuded confidence that the expected support would come.

The Centre had provided capital gains exemption for all sales of land and released ₹1,500 crore of the approved ₹2,500 crore for Amaravati. The TDP government invited tenders worth ₹41,170 crore between 2014 and 2019 and all the works were grounded. A sum of ₹4,319 crore was paid and the payables stood at ₹1,269 crore.

Mr. Naidu said the YSRCP government "ruined everything and the present government was in an unenviable situation because of it".

He said the issue of extending the time period for paying annuity to the farmers who have given their lands for the project would be examined and all cases booked against those who protested against the proposed three capitals would be reviewed.

'A.P. CM must convince Centre for special status'

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

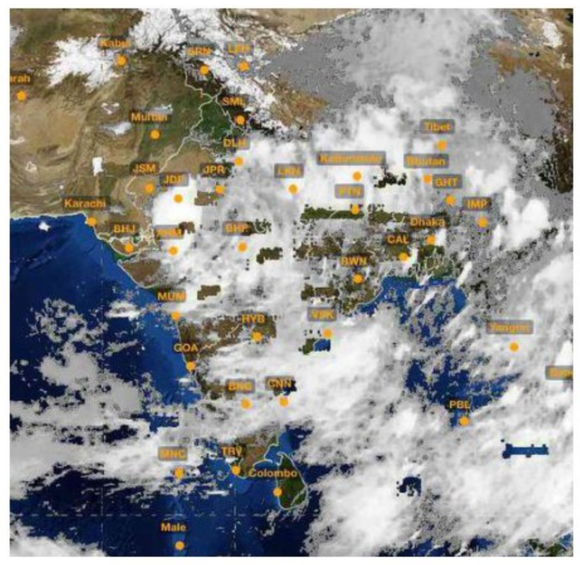
CPI Andhra Pradesh secretary K. Ramakrishna on Wednesday said this was the "right time" for Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to insist on the Centre to extend Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh. The CPI leader was in the city as part of the three-day CPI State Council meeting.

The sale of the assets of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) by the Centre is a part of its larger ploy of sell the plant, he said.

Mr. Ramakrishna recalled that the trade unions and the Left parties had been staging protests in all the districts against the privatisation. He said the CPI national council meeting to be held in Delhi from July 11 to 15 would also discuss the Visakhapatnam steel plant issue.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	41	31.0	25.7	Kozhikode	4	33.5	25.7
Ahmedabad	—	35.0	25.5	Kurnool	—	34.0	26.4
Aizawl	9	29.3	23.0	Lucknow	0.3	30.0	28.2
Allahabad	—	34.7	27.8	Madurai	—	40.2	26.3
Bengaluru	—	28.8	21.8	Mangaluru	18	29.9	24.6
Bhopal	4	32.5	24.4	Mumbai	0.7	33.0	28.2
Bhubaneswar	0.5	30.0	26.4	Mysuru	—	29.2	—
Chandigarh	65	32.6	25.6	New Delhi	—	34.1	29.0
Chennai	—	38.3	29.6	Patna	17	29.8	26.9
Coimbatore	—	33.4	24.4	Port Blair	0.5	30.0	26.3
Dehradun	130	28.4	25.2	Puducherry	—	37.1	27.6
Gangtok	32	20.3	18.4	Pune	15.4	29.8	22.6
Goa	14	32.0	26.2	Raipur	—	33.2	25.2
Guwahati	1	33.6	25.4	Ranchi	54	28.2	22.6
Hubballi	—	28.0	23.0	Shillong	13	23.4	18.0
Hyderabad	7.8	31.7	21.9	Shimla	9	23.4	17.6
Imphal	36	30.3	20.8	Srinagar	—	35.6	21.0
Jaipur	—	37.8	28.2	Thiruvananthapuram	5	32.0	25.1
Kochi	7	31.4	25.8	Tiruchi	—	37.7	27.0
Kohima	20	22.2	18.0	Vijayawada	0.6	36.6	26.4
Kolkata	43.6	30.6	25.0	Visakhapatnam	4	32.8	24.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.25	..43	35	... 335	...397	
Bengaluru	.14	..36	84	 41	53	
Chennai	5	7	94	 83	85	
Delhi	.26	..28	74	... 100	...207	
Hyderabad	.13	..15	39	 43	59	
Kolkata	.13	..54	45	 30	45	
Lucknow	.12	..14	66	 41	48	
Mumbai	.27	..41	33	 68	69	
Pune	..—	..39	93	 30	42	
Visakhapatnam	.11	..56	31	 49	99	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Belapur, Maharashtra recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 275 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

3 new criminal laws named only in English: ASG

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The three new criminal laws, which have replaced the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act from July 1, have been named only in English and not in Hindi or Sanskrit since the English alphabet had been used in the nomenclature, argued Additional Solicitor-General (ASG) AR. L. Sundaresan before the Madras High Court on Wednesday.

AR.L. Sundaresan

Appearing before Acting Chief Justice R. Mahadevan and Justice Mohammed Shaffiq, the ASG denied the charge of public interest litigant B. Ramkumar Adityan that the names Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam violate Article 348, which mandates the authoritative texts of all laws to be in English. "Here, Your Lordships may see that everything is only in English. My respectful submission is that English alphabet has been used to describe the names. Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita is only in English. These are all proper nouns. It is a name. This does not affect the fundamental right of anyone... By passage of time, people will get used to these names," he said.

He went on to state that "the names reflect the wisdom of the Parliament. The parliamentarians, being our elected representatives, have decided to give these names. Therefore, the name given by the lawmakers who represent the will of the people, cannot be questioned. Around 70% of the people may like it and 30% may not like it but the will of the Parliament is reflected in these."

He agreed that a case could be filed by any citizen questioning the nomenclature if it was against any provision of the Constitution.

INBRIEF

BRS MP Keshava Rao rejoins Congress after 10 years

A decade after leaving the party with which he was associated for almost five decades, veteran politician and Rajya Sabha member Kancharla Keshava Rao returned to the Congress on Wednesday in the presence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and the Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. The 85-year-old BRS MP rejoined the Congress on Wednesday at Mr. Kharge's residence. The veteran leader had quit the Congress party in 2013 protesting against the UPA government and party's indecision on announcing a separate State.

Madras HC sets aside ex-Minister's conviction

The Madras High Court on Wednesday set aside the conviction and three-year sentence imposed by a trial court in 2019 on the then Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister, P. Balakrishna Reddy, in a 1998 case of rioting related to protests against illicit arrack in Krishnagiri. Justice G. Jayachandran allowed the appeals preferred by the former Minister and 15 other convicts against the verdict passed by a special court for MP/MLA cases in Chennai in January 2019, holding that the trial court had erred in convicting them despite a lack of credible evidence.

Man arrested with 2.4 kg of MDMA in Thrissur district

Probably in the largest MDMA bust ever in Kerala, the police and the anti-narcotic squad nabbed a youth with 2.4 kg of the synthetic drug from Thrissur on Tuesday evening. The police arrested Fazil Mullantakathu, 36, of Kannur. The drug was stored in the form of tablets. Mr. Fazil was nabbed with 20 gm of MDMA during a vehicle checking by the police. Later, during further investigation, the police recovered 1,943 gm of MDMA in tablet form and 450 gm of MDMA in powder form from his flat in Aluva.

Power saviour

Busy day: A lineman of the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) at work on an electric pole with the Christ the Redeemer statue on the background, in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. PTI

Unified Mass held peacefully as factions stick to agreed plan

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The row over Mass liturgy in the archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly appears to have stumbled to a close after about a quarter of a century with St. Thomas' feast (Syro-Malabar Church Day), on Wednesday, passing off with both sides on the divide conducting Mass peacefully, sticking to an agreed formula. The peace formula, reached after several hiccups, rests centrally on at least one Mass being celebrated in the unified formula on Sundays and days of obligation in all churches in the archdiocese.

At the end of the day's celebrations, however, the rebels were quick to claim that attendance in around 250 churches where synod Mass was celebrated as a special case was very thin.

But Major Archbishop Raphael Thattil, who led the festival Mass at St. Thomas Mount, sounded enthusiastic. He told a public gathering at the end of the Mass that strengthening of families was a must to bolster faith. The celebrations started with hoisting of the flag.

Apostolic administrator of Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese Bosco Puthur was among the concelebrants.

'Three crucial Gaganyaan tests planned this year'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman S. Somanath on Wednesday said that three crucial tests for Gaganyaan mission would be carried out this year.

Speaking on the sidelines of a workshop on planetary defence to commemorate International Asteroid Day, Mr. Somanath said: "This year, there are three experiments pending, which include the first unmanned Gaganyaan (G1) mission, which will be carried out in December. There is the Test Vehicle (TV) T-2 mission, which is a abort mission demonstration, and the third is pad abort test where we will simulate to abort at the launch pad."

S. Somanath, ISRO chairman, addressing the press after inaugurating a workshop on planetary defence, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

ISRO will like to contribute to the international missions such as the Apophis in 2029, says Somanath

Speaking on the planetary defence systems and the need for international cooperation in protecting Earth from potential asteroid impacts, he said that ISRO would like to contribute to the upcoming international missions like the Apophis in 2029.

Support to mission

Mr. Somanath said that India could provide instruments or other support to joint missions led by space agencies like NASA, ESA, and JAXA.

He said that no one country can develop a planetary protection system against asteroids and international cooperation was needed.

"All space faring nations should unite and work. As a leading space agency, ISRO has also initiated focussed activities towards planetary defence," he said.

On June 30, 1908, a huge air blast from an asteroid flattened about 2,200 square km of forest destroying nearly 80 million trees in Tunguska, a remote location in Siberia, Russia.

In accordance with the UN resolution in 2016, International Asteroid Day is celebrated to "observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908, and to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard".

Workshop

ISRO on Wednesday organised a workshop on planetary defence. The event was attended by student participants and delegates from ISRO centres and academic institutions. Apart from the basic concept related to asteroids and planetary defence, leading experts from JAXA and ESA also delivered technical talks on Hayabusa-2 asteroid mission, ongoing planetary defence and asteroid monitoring activities undertaken by ESA and the role of organisations like International Asteroid Warning Network and Space Mission Planning Advisory Group in dealing with asteroid impact threats.

Three held for murder of woman 15 years ago

The Hindu Bureau
ALAPPUZHA

The police on Wednesday recorded the arrest of three persons in connection with the murder of Kala, a young woman, in Alappuzha district of Kerala 15 years ago.

The arrested have been identified as Jinu, Soman and Pramod. The FIR registered by the Mannar police has named Anil Kumar, former husband of Kala, as the first accused in the case. He is reportedly working in Israel.

Anil Kumar killed her after suspecting her of having a relationship with another person, the FIR said.

Avoidable tragedy

Gatherings should be tightly regulated to prevent Hathras-type stampedes

The stampede on Tuesday at a religious congregation at Hathras in western Uttar Pradesh, claiming over 120 lives, is only the latest in a series of such tragedies in the country. There have been at least half-a-dozen such incidents in the last 20-odd years. In this instance, at least a lakh of people flocked to Fulrai village to listen to an address by a preacher Suraj Pal, also known as Narayan Sakar Hari or "Bhole Baba". There are reports that there were over 2.5 lakh participants at the venue, which could accommodate no more than 80,000. The preacher is said to have followers in States such as Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana too. Most of the deceased, mainly women and children, were from the economically vulnerable sections of society, and were in search of spiritual solace. While only a fair investigation can find out the cause for the stampede, the reasons being cited include overcrowding, and the bid by some to collect soil from around the feet of the preacher. Not surprisingly, the responses, particularly from the field-level public health system, have exposed how ill-prepared the Uttar Pradesh administration is. Visuals of bodies lying outside the place of post mortem and of the kin desperate for help, as well as an inadequate number of ambulances and medical staff have become the common features of such tragedies. What has made it worse is the preacher and his aides reportedly leaving the site even as panic-stricken people were dying.

The most tragic aspect, as seen in the past, is that it was all avoidable had there been proactive steps taken by a vigilant administration. Unfortunately, the authorities in many States do not appear to have learnt lessons or made use of the availability of better technology and communication. Apart from stringent action against those responsible, the U.P. administration should ensure a just compensation package, the cost of which has to be borne by the organisers. The tragedy is a classic study in the management of large crowds. The officials concerned should ensure that the organisers have the wherewithal to handle large gatherings of any size. The local authorities and organisers should also conduct a drill ahead of such events. What is more important is that the political executive, the bureaucracy and organisers of any public event should be conscious of the fact that the loss of a life is a tragedy for the person's family. The arrangements for mass functions should be governed by this fact.

Of accommodation

Treasury benches and the Opposition must uphold parliamentary tradition

The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha and the corresponding session of Rajya Sabha were notable for the renewed spirit of parliamentary debate on display, notwithstanding the excessive combativeness and avoidable grandstanding by the government and the Opposition. Echoes of the election campaign continued too, as Rahul Gandhi, in his debut as the designated Leader of Opposition (LoP), mounted an aggressive critique of the NDA government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Modi in turn called into question the track record and intentions of the Congress, and Mr. Gandhi's capacity. Both sides categorically declared fealty to the Constitution of India, while accusing each other of trying to undermine it. They also crossed swords over Hinduism and its political role. The rise of a strong Opposition – with no designated LoP earlier – and the return of coalition politics as the leading party lacks an absolute majority may restore the role of Parliament. The increase in Opposition numbers can help restore healthy traditions such as more Bills getting scrutinised by parliamentary standing committees. A robust Opposition can also act as an effective restraint on the government, preventing it from bulldozing opposition with its legislative agenda. The 17th Lok Sabha not only earned the dubious distinction of having seen the suspension of the most number of Opposition MPs (146 in a single session, including Rajya Sabha MPs) but also functioned without a Deputy Speaker, a post usually reserved for the Opposition. To underscore this point, the INDIA bloc predicated its support for Om Birla as the Speaker only on the condition that the government agreed to offer it the deputy chair. The stalemate eventually led to an election between Mr. Birla and Kodikunnil Suresh (Congress), which Mr. Birla won through a voice vote. The Opposition did not press for a division and rich parliamentary tradition was followed, with Mr. Modi, leader of the House, and Mr. Gandhi, LoP, escorting Mr. Birla to his Chair.

The roles of the Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairman gain additional prominence. The Opposition has urged them to be even-handed. The Opposition has also questioned the expunging of portions of Mr. Gandhi's speech from the records by the Speaker. The threshold for removing parts of what is spoken in the House from official records should be very high. Following the deviation from the standard format by several members, the Speaker has constituted a committee to frame rules for oath-taking. Parliamentary speeches could do with more humour and less diatribe, but the fact that there was an expanded debate is encouraging. The Treasury and Opposition benches must understand that their place in the highest seat of democracy is to represent the people who sent them there. They must find a common sense of purpose and function in a spirit of accommodation.

Trials, medical ethics and the orbit of power

On January 10, 2021, Rashida Bee (representing the Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Stationary Karmchari Sangh), Nawab Khan (representing Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Purush Sangharsh Morcha), Rachna Dhingra (representing the Bhopal Group for Information and Action) and Nausheen Khan (representing Children Against Dow Carbide) wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the then Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan. In the letter, they alleged irregularities and ethical violations in the conduct of the clinical trial for Bharat Biotech's Covaxin (a COVID-19 vaccine) by the People's Hospital in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh and the resultant exploitation of trial participants belonging to vulnerable groups demanding stoppage, punishment and compensation.

The letter further alleged gross violations of ethics guidelines including violations of informed consent procedures, enrolment of vulnerable population among study participants, non-reporting of adverse events and a lack of monitoring and follow-up of study participants among others.

The writers sought urgent intervention to stop the study at the trial site and for investigation by an independent body. What became of the letter and any consequential actions are unknown. The Indian drug regulator, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation had approved the vaccine candidate prior to the completion of the recruitment for the vaccine candidate's Phase III study for "Restricted Use of Covaxin under Clinical Trial Mode" – a term and process that finds no mention in India's Drug Regulatory Framework, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and its accompanying Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 2019.

Ethics committees and whistle-blowers

One of the issues that stands out in this case is the functioning of the trial sites and their respective ethics committees. Dr. Jacob Puliyel, a member of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court of India where the Court said "subject to the protection of privacy of individual subjects and to the extent permissible by the 2019 Rules, the relevant data which is required to be published under the statutory regime and the WHO [World Health Organization] Statement on Clinical Trials shall be made available to the public without undue delay".

The development of potential therapeutic agents is often complicated by subjective and sometimes objective violations of ethical guidelines. The role of conscientious insiders, and sometimes outsiders, who have unique knowledge of such violations is the subject of a recent book, *The Occasional Human Sacrifice - Medical Experimentation and the Price of Saying No*, by bioethicist, philosopher and whistle-blower at the University of Minnesota, Carl Elliott. The book details several such incidents in the western world, starting with the Tuskegee Syphilis Study to the Willowbrook Hepatitis Study.

Dinesh S. Thakur

a public health activist and was the whistle-blower in the case against Ranbaxy Laboratories

It also looks at what happened with Protocol 126 for cancer study of bone marrow transplantation at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center and at the Eugene Sanger Radioisotope Laboratory, Cincinnati Medical Center, to study the effect of radiation on humans among others. Driven by his own experience to understand the suicide of Dan Markingson at the university, Elliot traverses some very difficult and human questions such as what makes someone speak out, the ethics of dissent, honour, respect, guilt and shame, and the concepts of dignity and integrity told through the journey of whistle-blowers. As Nancy Olivieri, a whistle-blower, recounts in her review, threats of legal action and, worse, often resulting in destroying the whistle-blower's life are far too common in such cases.

While one often wonders why such instances of moral courage are few and far between in our society, Satyendra Dubey, Shanmugam Manjunath, Sanjiv Chaturvedi and a few other named exceptions notwithstanding, lack of strong whistle-blower protection statutes is only a part of the problem. Unlike the United States, India does not have a law that protects those who take great personal risks to bring wrongdoing to public notice. The existing law, whose scope is limited to public servants to begin with, was further diluted in 2015, making it a dead letter law.

The deeper issues which we should, but do not wrestle with are: understanding group think and organisational wrongdoing, loyalty to the ivory tower, fear of retribution, social conformity, status hierarchies and exercise of power that are so ingrained in us as a society. Unless we study these traits among us as a society, we will never understand why someone chooses to be an Anand Rai, the whistle-blower who exposed the Vyapam scam.

Innovative therapies and ethics

Back to the topic at hand, i.e., the development of life-saving medicines is a morass in our country. While we have a vibrant industry that manufactures generic (copy-cat) drugs, developing innovative therapies has not been our cup of tea. Development of life-saving medicines often entails balancing the risk to the patient with the projected benefit from using the therapeutic candidate. In most cases, there is not enough data to make an informed decision, which is not straightforward and requires specialised knowledge and experience. Using an approved drug that is on the market does not qualify a medical doctor to make such decisions. Drug development is a separate area of expertise. While we see green shoots of late, we do not have deep expertise in managing clinical development. Therefore, we make do with appointing medical doctors to oversee the development of therapeutics. This requires better guardrails than we have in order to ensure that the basic tenets of ethics are not violated in the process. For example, when medical doctors who specialise in treating individual patients with specific diseases such as cardiology and paediatrics are appointed to run our pandemic response, we see absurd actions such as projecting cases to become zero during the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of subject expert committees make up things such as "emergency use authorization in clinical trial mode" and work hard to justify it with a straight face. These are glaring examples of gross violations of medical ethics in our recent past.

Indian patients and clinical studies

The bigger issue in our country is the historic and repeated violation of informed consent when patients are enrolled in clinical studies. More than anecdotal evidence exists that poor and uneducated people are enrolled in such studies without fully informing them of potential harm from the therapeutic candidate being evaluated in a clinical study. The job of ensuring such atrocities do not occur falls to what is called an institutional ethics committee. While such committees exist on paper and in our regulations, their function and effectiveness are at best patchy.

A publication (2022) by Gayatri Saberwal *et al.* in the journal *PLOS Global Public Health* that evaluated 1,359 Phase II or III interventional studies registered in the Clinical Trials Registry-India (CTRI) identified as many as 30 problems with the way in which our ethics committees function. These include clinical trials without any ethics committees, and trials with more sites than functional ethics committees – for example, three ethics committees approving one study site. The simple takeaway from this analysis is that the primary guardrails that are supposed to be a check on abuse of medical ethics do not function in our country. This analysis says nothing about the competence of the members of the ethics committees, which was plainly obvious during the development of Coronil during the pandemic. The biggest abuser of these regulations is a section of the industry that is actively promoted by the Ministry of AYUSH. These poorly designed, ill-executed "clinical studies" with zero oversight are often used to provide a veneer of scientific validity to their concoctions and nothing more.

If there is one message that comes out clearly in Elliott's book, it is how even well-designed and well-run systems of checks and balances on accountability are often run roughshod over by those who have the means and power. We are nowhere even close to how such systems function in the West. If we truly wish to hold wrongdoing to account, we have a very long way to go before we even get the basics right. That is, if we truly want to.

In India, the primary guardrails that are supposed to be a check on the abuse of medical ethics do not function

Factory accidents, a pointer to rusty inspection reform

An explosion of a reactor in a chemical factory in the Dombivli Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) area in May 2024 resulted in the loss of lives and injuries to workers and people. It also caused damage to factories, shops and residencies in the neighbourhood. The Maharashtra government announced compensation to the kin of the deceased and funds for the treatment of the injured.

Newspaper reports show that fatal industrial accidents were frequent in 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2023. The Maharashtra government is guilty of not relocating 156 chemical factories in the Dombivli MIDC area even after "deciding" in 2022 to relocate them to Patalganga. It is now known that the boiler in the chemical factory was not registered under the Indian Boiler Regulations, 1950.

Poor inspection

In 2021, in Maharashtra, 1,551 of 6,492 hazardous factories were inspected, i.e., a 23.89% inspection rate. And, 3,158 out of 39,255 registered factories were inspected, i.e., an 8.04% inspection rate. The situation is no better in two other top industrial States. In Tamil Nadu, the general inspection rate was 17.04% and the hazardous factories inspection rate was 25.39%. In Gujarat, it was 19.33% and 19.81%, respectively. The all-India figure, of 14.65% and 26.02%, respectively, is not surprising (the data are from the Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes report, 2022).

The poor inspection rates could also be due to a shortage of personnel among other reasons. In Maharashtra, the appointment rate is just 39.34%; 48 out of the 122 sanctioned officers were appointed. The numbers are better in Gujarat (50.98%) and Tamil Nadu (53.57%). The all-India figure was 67.58%. Even the sanctioned posts relative to the number of registered factories have been inadequate to ensure that every factory is inspected in a year. For example, for an all-India reach, each of the 953 sanctioned inspectors would have had to inspect 337 registered factories in a year, in 2021. The inspection rates are poor because of the heavy workload of the inspectors. An inspector in Maharashtra must inspect 818 factories in a year; 589 in Gujarat; 532 in Tamil Nadu, and 499 at the all-India level.

K.R. Shyam Sundar

Adjunct Professor, Management Development Institute, Gurgaon

The prosecution rate, i.e., the number of prosecutions decided as a percentage of total prosecutions (including pending cases) was 6.95% in Gujarat; 13.84% in Maharashtra, and 14.45% in Tamil Nadu. As a result, inspections lose their "deterrent effect".

From the data, it is clear that labour market governance through the labour inspection system is weak and does not perform efficiently. However, employers call it pejoratively as "inspector-raj", implying harassment and prevalence of compromising practices such as bribes.

Need for the right reforms in inspection

The criticism is not without merit. Given the vast universe of inspection, the inspectors may "target" and "harass" several factories/establishments, exhibiting state power and also attempting to secure bribes. But this cannot be universal as the statistics are telling. The president of the Maharashtra Industry Development Association has admitted, in a media report in May 2024, that in many cases, safety inspection and certification were done "on an "understanding" between the auditors and factory owners or managers". Employers are as guilty as the labour inspectors, and tackling the "supply side" of "rent seeking" is as important as reforming the "demand" side.

Reforms of the inspection system are necessary but not of the kind initiated in most States in response to employer criticism. Self-certification, randomised inspections, online inspections, and third-party certification have been introduced by ruling political parties at the all-India level and in many States. These changes violate several articles in the International Labour Organization's Labour Inspection Convention (081), 1947.

According to the Convention, there must be sufficient qualified and well-provided inspectors and they shall enter the establishments freely and without prior notice at any time to secure due compliance of the labour laws, among others. Instead of liberalising the inspection system, governments must ensure a strong labour market governance by implementing the provisions of the ILO Convention. Given the fast-paced changes taking place in technology, and the use of hazardous and chemical substances, the increased need for inspection is felt. Inspectors can both "inspect" and "facilitate" due compliance of laws by providing suitable advice to employers and unions. This is recognised by the ILO Convention.

Penalties for the enforcer

If a firm or a trade union does not comply with laws, they are prosecuted by the state. If the state fails in its governance what is the penalty the state, *viz.* the government and the labour department officials pay? Simple and meagre compensation to the victims and their families? No. There must be a penal system for the enforcers also which will pave the way for complete legal compliance.

The recurrence of the same kind of industrial disasters shows a lack of learning by the government. In the name of reforms and a lean government, the state cannot abrogate its fundamental duty – to ensure a safe working and living environment. It should carry out meaningful reforms to ensure an "efficient" and "ethical" labour inspectorate.

The recurrence of the same kind of industrial disasters highlights the need for more meaningful reforms in the inspection process

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In Parliament

The abrasive exchanges between the Congress and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party have certainly lowered the dignity of Parliament (Page 1, "PM says mandate is for continuity, Cong. a 'parasite' on allies", July 3). The Prime Minister, given his seniority, should have shown some consideration for fellow members instead of bulldozing them. No MP should forget that a strong Opposition, which has been missing for a long time, is essential for a healthy democracy. The BJP failed to win the required number of seats and must introspect over this.

P. Sanath Kumar,
Visakhapatnam

The Prime Minister's speech did not have answers for the points raised by the Leader of the Opposition or the other Opposition leaders. Instead, it was focused on levelling accusations and ridiculing the Congress. The Prime Minister's claim that the 2024 mandate is for continuity needs to be clarified. The continuity is certainly not for such incongruent and hate speeches to continue even after the election is over.

The BJP too was not given the mandate to rule on its own strength. The leader of an august house is expected to be conscious of the difference between a speech delivered in a street corner and a speech before a gathering of elites and in an august house such as Parliament. The Prime Minister's speech should only enhance the image of the nation and not the otherwise.

A.G. Rajmohan,
Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

Corrections & Clarifications

In a report, "PM says mandate is for continuity, Cong. a 'parasite' on allies" (Page 1, July 3, 2024), the translation of the phrase "*balak buddhi*" should have been 'childish mind', and not "imbecile" as published.

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Humility in public discourse

Adithya Reddy
Advocate, Madras High Court

In the wake of the recently concluded general election, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's comment on the need for humility and decorum in public discourse is a wake-up call. The idea that the best way to respond to political criticism is through verbal harassment has become popular in the era of TRP-driven media. Public discourse has become a gladiatorial game, teaching the common citizen to be impressed with the nastiness of verbal blows rather than by how they serve matters of importance to the individual or the country. This problem is faced by liberal democracies throughout the world.

There has been growing literature on the issue of polarising discourse in the West. American Philosopher Elizabeth Anderson diagnoses the problem of personal attacks as the failure of participants in a democracy to distinguish between first-order and second-order moral claims - "First-order moral claims call us to perform good and right actions... Second-order moral claims evaluate people's characters as virtuous or vicious... When people interpret first-order claims as illegitimate second-order claims, they disregard the first-order moral concern at stake. Every call to action is dismissed as hypocritical, smug, and disingenuous. This creates a culture of impunity and irresponsibility." This tendency is often observed in TV debates and election campaigns, where the only response a speaker has to any issue is a comment on the other speaker's past record or personal character.

Creating division

Personal attacks and hate speech push relevant and meaningful information to the margins. More importantly, they mask the refusal to understand both one's own limitations and those of the opponent. They create distance between sections of the society. Conclusions are drawn about another person's values and character based on their views, without understanding how they came to hold those views.

Similarly, there is a failure to acknowledge that each of us speaks only from partial knowledge. Overcoming these tendencies requires the virtues of humility and care.

Unfortunately, it is a contemporary consensus that the cultivation or discussion of such character traits can only happen in the personal sphere. They are not matters for government or public discourse.

Charles Taylor, the great critic of our 'secular age', states "the need to train character has receded even farther into the background, as though the morality of mutual respect were embedded in the idea of individual self-fulfilment itself."

We owe much of our idea of modern constitutional government to the French nobleman and philosopher Baron De Montesquieu. Beyond the procedures and institutions necessary for the separation of powers in a democracy, for which he was famous, Montesquieu was primarily concerned about the education necessary for citizens to preserve democratic ideals. He wanted the "whole power of education" to be used to cultivate "a constant preference of public to private interest".

Virtues of humility and care

The spirit of renunciation that Montesquieu wanted citizens to have is related to the virtues of humility and care, which are absent in today's political discourse. Due to the subsequent course of political philosophy, especially in Anglo-American thought, Dr B.R. Ambedkar could only express apprehension that "however good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot." He could not do anything about it. Whether the future citizens of India turned out to be a "bad lot" or not could be a matter of concern for the Constitution or government, even if the survival of the Constitution depended on it.

Historically, freedom of speech was seen as necessary for arriving at the truth, based on the view that human nature is capable of learning and improving from external criticism. Unless both the listener and speaker are tolerant and humble, they cannot, through their faculty of imagination, understand the perspectives of those whose character and opinions are entirely foreign to them. Therefore freedom of speech is not only about having the opportunity to speak freely but also about exercising the positive traits of one's character.

Pursuit of knowledge

Today, people are constantly told that knowledge is power or a matter of individual achievement. So, why would someone who believes they are more knowledgeable be open to relinquishing their social capital? Why should one have intellectual humility? Traditional Indian thought never viewed the pursuit of knowledge as an individual enterprise, with the individual being a modern, atomic one.

Prof. Vrinda Dalmiya, in her works comparing Mahabharata and western philosophy, finds a focus on character over one's store of knowledge in the epic. Acquisition of knowledge or the quest for truth is not an amoral exercise involving method and study alone but an essentially moral one involving care for others. Even sages and gods become better by finding humility. Ms. Dalmiya shows, through the example of the great Sage Kausika who learns from the butcher and the housewife, that intellectual humility 'is relational as it involves not only a single person's beliefs and awareness but a focus on... others.' Some of us may have come a long way from this way of thinking and living.

Mr. Bhagwat's comments are a call for reorientation.

Freedom of speech is not only about having the opportunity to speak freely but also about exercising the positive traits of one's character

Coal politics heats up in Telangana

Parties are debating the implications of privatising coal mining in the region

STATE OF PLAY

B. Chandrashekhar
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The 10th round of the Commercial Coal Blocks auction, initiated by the Ministry of Coal on June 21 to privatise 67 blocks across eight States, includes the Shravanapalli coal block in Telangana's Mandamarri mandal. Estimated to contain approximately 120 million tonnes of coal, this auction has sparked a fresh round of political debate among the State's major parties.

The Opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) opposes the auction of coal blocks in Telangana, arguing that the State government, should allocate coal mines through nomination. However, the argument has not gone down well with the Union governments. The auction was mooted by the UPA-II government in 2013 and subsequently pursued by two terms of the NDA government on the pretext of making India *'atma nirbhar'* (self-reliant) in coal production as the country had been importing huge quantities of coal despite having reserves.

The auction of coal blocks is intended to allow private companies to take up mining after successful bidding and exploit the mineral on a commercial basis by offering a percentage value of coal sold to the government. The successful bidders will get leasing rights from the State governments.

Coal mining in Telangana dates back 140 years, with the establishment of the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company Ltd in England in 1886 initiating coal extraction. Later, Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) was established in 1920

and the majority stake (holding) in it was purchased by Hyderabad in 1945. It continued to be a wholly-owned State public sector undertaking until 1960 when the then erstwhile Andhra Pradesh government transferred a 49% stake to the Centre for mobilising funds for the expansion of coal mining.

Despite occasional losses, SCCL, a profitable State PSU, has extracted approximately 1,753 million tonnes of coal from underground and opencast mines by the end of the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Telangana has a total of 82 coal blocks with over 3,000 million tonnes coal reserves and of them only 39 are with Singareni and one with TG-Genco.

The Centre has identified four coal blocks for auction in Telangana– Koyagudem, Sattupalli Block-3, Shravanapalli Block-3 and Kalyanakhani Block-6 – to begin with. The Koyagudem block had received only one bid and as a result it was not allotted. The other three mines too were offered in the auction in the past but there were no bidders. This time around, the Coal Ministry has listed Shravanapalli again.

The previous BRS government had instructed the SCCL management not to participate in the coal blocks auction, protesting the Centre's policy of allotment of coal blocks only through tenders. It is not clear whether the incumbent Congress government would follow the same. The BRS had written to the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the allotment of coal blocks to Singareni on a nomination basis and the then-Pradesh Congress Committee president, A. Revanth Reddy, present Chief Minister, also did the same.

Working president of BRS, K.T. Rama Rao, has alleged that the Centre was conspiring to privatise SCCL by divesting its stake in the company by regularly denying coal block allocations until the company incurs losses. "Now that its key partners TDP and Jana Sena have won 18 seats, it could go slow. In Telangana, people have given 8 seats each to the BJP and the Congress party but they too have colluded in the matter of coal blocks' auction", he said.

The BRS' argument for allotment of coal blocks to Singareni has ample ground as the Centre had allotted two lignite blocks each in Odisha and Tamil Nadu and five coal blocks in Gujarat to State public sector companies due to pressure from the State governments or parties.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has faulted the previous BRS government and criticised it for handing over a coal block allotted to TG-Genco to a private company. The BJP leaders are arguing that the auction was to improve revenue through royalty to the State government. Irrespective of the parties blaming each other, it is to be seen whether they could stop Telangana's coal mines from falling into the hands of private companies and secure mine allocations for Singareni through nomination. This is a million dollar question for now.

The rise of the far-right in Europe and its ramifications

Supporters of some right-wing populist parties in Europe have higher confidence in Putin than those of other parties

DATA POINT

Agencies

French voters face a decisive choice on July 7 in the run-off of snap parliamentary elections that could see the country's first far-right government since the World War II Nazi occupation – or no party emerging with a majority at all. In Sunday's first round, the National Rally came first with an estimated one-third of the votes. The New Popular Front coalition that included the center-left, green and left forces polled close to 29% of the vote and came in second place, ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's centrist alliance.

If the National Rally or the Left alliance gets a majority, Mr. Macron will be forced to appoint a Prime Minister belonging to a new majority. In such a situation – called "cohabitation" in France – the government would implement policies that diverge from the President's plan. The rise of a far-right party in France has not been sudden. When Mr. Macron was re-elected in 2022, his vote share did not increase in any department. In contrast, his challenger from the far-right National Rally Marine Le Pen's vote share rose across the country, resulting in the far-right's best-ever performance. More importantly, the rise of the Right in European politics is not limited to France.

In last month's European Parliamentary Elections, right-wing and far-right parties achieved their best performance in the legislative body's history. The far-right European Conservatives and Reformists Group and the Identity and Democracy Group together increased their tally from 118 to 131 seats in the Parliament, while the left-Greens' seat share was reduced to 53 from 71.

Chart 1 shows the vote share secured by right-leaning parties in the national-level polls of the U.K. and select countries in the European Union. The vote share of right-leaning parties is increasing at varying degrees of pace in each country. For instance, the vote share of the National Rally increased from just 4% in 2007 to 19% in 2022. The German party, Alternative for Germany, recorded over 10% vote share in the last two elections, with the Sweden Democrats vote share increasing from 2% in 2006 to 20% in 2022 in Swedish polls.

Given that most such parties have an anti-immigrant stance, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Wednesday called for vigilance, citing narratives that dehumanise migrants and asylum seekers. One other impact may be on the nations' views about NATO, and on the ongoing-war between Russia and Ukraine.

Polls by Pew Survey indicate that in some European countries, positive views about NATO and confidence in Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy have started to decline. In contrast, slight increases in favourable views towards Russia and confidence in Russian President Vladimir Putin were recorded across many European countries in 2024 compared to a year before. **Table 2** lists responses to four questions – Q1: % who have a favourable opinion of NATO; Q2: % who have a favourable view of Russia; Q3: % who have confidence in Mr. Putin to do the right thing; Q4: % who have confidence in Mr. Zelenskyy to do the right thing. The percentage point change in 2024 from 2023 is also listed.

According to Pew Survey, in several European countries, people who have a favourable view of a right-wing populist party in their country see Russia and Mr. Putin more positively than people with unfavourable views of those parties.

While their support dropped in 2022 and 2023, confidence in Russia and Mr. Putin has climbed back up in 2024 as shown in **Chart 3**.

Veering away from the center-left

The data for the charts were sourced from Pew Research Center and ParlGov

Chart 1: Vote shares secured by right-leaning parties in the national-level polls of the U.K. and select countries in the EU

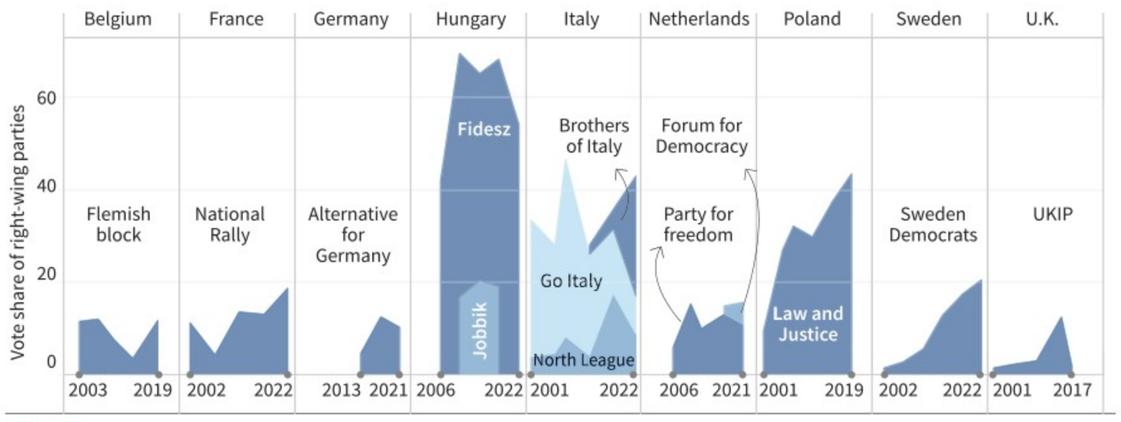
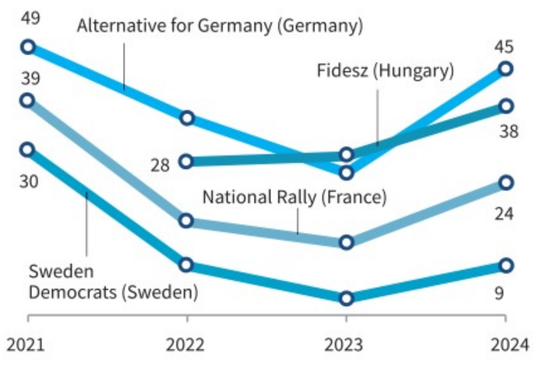


Table 2: The table lists responses to four questions — Q1: % who have a favourable opinion of NATO; Q2: % who have a favourable view of Russia; Q3: % who have confidence in Vladimir Putin to do the right thing; Q4: % who have confidence in Volodymyr Zelenskyy to do the right thing

	Q1: Favourable opinion of NATO			Q2: Favourable opinion on Russia			Q3: Favourable opinion on Putin			Q4: Favourable opinion on Zelenskyy		
	2023	2024	Change	2023	2024	Change	2023	2024	Change	2023	2024	Change
France	56	54	-2	14	17	+3	9	14	+5	50	43	-7
Germany	69	64	-5	10	15	+5	8	17	+9	61	54	-7
Hungary	55	63	+8	23	22	-1	18	21	+3	-	-	-
Italy	65	60	-5	18	17	-1	14	12	-2	-	-	-
Netherlands	77	75	-2	8	8	0	7	10	+3	73	66	-7
Poland	93	91	-2	1	2	+1	1	1	0	70	48	-22
Spain	53	45	-8	6	9	+3	5	7	+2	55	48	-7
Sweden	78	72	-6	3	4	+1	2	4	+2	86	80	-6
U.K.	74	66	-8	9	13	+4	9	14	+5	-	-	-

Right-leaning: A boy runs in front of election signs in Toulouse, southwestern France. AFP

Chart 3: Share who have confidence in Russian President Vladimir Putin, among supporters of right-wing parties



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 4, 1974

Edible oil adulterated with used motor oil

New Delhi, July 3: An all-India sample survey conducted by Consumer Council of India has revealed that used motor oil is being utilised for adulteration with edible oils, hair oils etc, after being refined.

On the basis of this finding, the Consumer Council has written to the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals to take steps to check this practice which poses a serious health hazard.

The survey covered nearly 250 petrol stations where cars are also serviced. It was found that most of these service stations sold the used motor oil drained from cars during service, to the highest bidder who refined it at a hideout and sold it for adulteration with edible oils and hair oils of popular brands.

In Madras, 40 service stations were surveyed which were found to sell 2,500 litres of waste oil every day. In Bangalore, 15 service stations were surveyed which sold 1,000 litres per day. The largest daily sale of 4,000 litres of used oil was reported from Calcutta where 50 service stations were surveyed.

The Consumer Council, which has as its chairman the Union Deputy Minister for Labour, Mr. Balgovind Varma, has also referred to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission about 100 cases where retail traders insist on consumers buying goods they do not need, as a condition for making available essential items to them.

The retailers are reported to have passed on the blame to manufacturers' representatives and wholesale distributors who refuse to supply the retailer essential articles unless they buy non-salable items too.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 4, 1924

Hungarian loan in London.

London, July 2: The London portion of the big loan to assist in rehabilitating Hungary amounting to €7,902,000 in 7½ per cent, sterling bonds at 88 and redeemable in 1934-44 was issued to-day. The lists closed at 11:30 in the morning. This is about 70 per cent of the loan, the balance of which is being divided between various other countries. The New York portion of 7,500,000 dollars was issued simultaneously with the London portion.

From Page One

Champai quits to make way for Hemant's return

"The alliance partner legislators and leaders elected Hemant Soren for a third term of Chief Minister for a unified command ahead of the upcoming State elections in October this year," a JMM leader said.

Mr. Hemant Soren had previously taken oath as CM in July 2013 and December 2019. He may now be invited by the Governor to take oath as CM for the third time on Thursday.

The strength of the JMM-led alliance in the 81-member Jharkhand Assembly has been reduced to 45 MLAs after the recent parliamentary election. Two JMM MLAs, Nalin Soren and Joba Majhi, are now MPs, while Jama legislator Sita Soren resigned from the party to contest the general election on a BJP ticket. The JMM also expelled two more legislators - Bishunpur MLA Chamra Linda and Boriyo MLA Lobin Hembrom - from the party, leaving it with 27 MLAs, along with 17 from the Congress and one from the Rashtriya Janata Dal in the ruling coalition.

The BJP's strength has also been reduced to 24, as two of its MLAs - Dhulu Mahto from Baghmara and Manish Jaiswal from Hazaribag - are now MPs. It also expelled Mandu MLA Jaiprakash Bhai Patel after he joined the Congress to contest the election.

(With inputs from PTI)

Rise above politics for peace in Manipur: PM

Addressing the alleged irregularities which have tainted the conduct of the NEET examination this year, the PM said that his government was taking strong action against those involved in criminal acts. "I expected all political parties to rise above party lines on the issue. I want to assure the youth that the government is not going to spare the people who have betrayed you," Mr. Modi said.

"The Congress is the biggest opponent of the Constitution," the PM said, adding that the party's past sins, such as the imposition of Emergency, could not be erased simply by waving the book.

Opposition MPs, led by Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, walked out of the House barely 30 minutes after Mr. Modi began his speech. Mr. Kharge sought permission to interject when the PM stated that the Congress had opposed the celebration of November 26 as Constitution Day, but was not allowed to do so by Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar.

In the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Modi spoke for an hour and 51 minutes. He said that his government had given a free hand to security agencies to act against corruption.

26/11 accused can be extradited: U.S. attorney

"Rana is extraditable to India under the plain provisions of the treaty, and India has established probable cause to prosecute him for his role in terrorist attacks that resulted in 166 deaths and 239 injuries," Mr. Alden said.

In his deposition before the court on June 5, Mr. Alden, who left the position last week, said both India and the United States have agreed on the meaning of the treaty provision, the non-bis provision in Article 6-1. "Both parties have now stated what they intended, that that provision be interpreted based on the elements of the offence and not based on the conduct underlying those crimes. That is consistent with long-standing Supreme Court double jeopardy precedent," he argued.

Rana faces charges for his role in the Mumbai attacks and is known to be associated with Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley, one of the main conspirators of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. Rana has never even attempted to argue that he cannot show that the same elements India seeks to prosecute him for were those he was prosecuted for in Chicago, Mr. Alden said.

Representing Rana, attorney John D. Cline said there is no competent evidence supporting probable cause.

Toll in Hathras stampede hits 121

On the Opposition's allegations that the law and order situation in the State has deteriorated and the government is trying to hide the death toll, Mr. Adityanath said, "Some people have a tendency to dig up politics in such tragic incidents. Everyone knows with whom that gentleman has a photo and who are his political connections. I think it is necessary to get to the bottom of it."

Several BJP affiliates have shared photographs of Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav participating in previous meetings of the godman.

In its preliminary report to the government, the Hathras district administration has said chaos began at the event when Mr. Pal Singh left the spot but his followers, numbering over a lakh, started running behind his convoy to collect the soil from his footprints. "Baba's security personnel and followers started pushing and shoving the crowd and this is when people fell on the swampy slope resulting in the stampede that killed 121 people," the report said.

Petition in SC seeks panel to probe Hathras stampede

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court on Wednesday to appoint a five-member expert committee under the supervision of a retired Supreme Court judge to inquire into the Hathras stampede which has seen over 121 deaths.

The petition filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari also asked the court to lay down safety guidelines for mass meetings and public gatherings.

The incident happened during a prayer meeting held by a self-styled godman, Narayan Saakar Hari, in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh. The event had drawn a large crowd.

"Several questions brew up from this horrific incident of stampede thereby questioning the duty and lapse of State Government and Municipal Corporations," the petition submitted.

It urged the court to direct the Uttar Pradesh government to submit a status report and initiate legal action against those who had acted negligently about the safety and crowd control measures.

Hathras stampede: amid the dead, search on for the living

The district hospital staff say they have never seen a tragedy of such scale; people at the village where the event was held say the death toll is higher than what the government has put out

Ishita Mishra
HATHRAS

The tragedy of the Hathras stampede that left 121 dead kept unfolding in the district hospitals and healthcare centres here on Wednesday as family members of those who are still missing frantically searched for their near and dear ones.

Chandan Jatav, 28, said he picked up a bag and left Agra as soon as he heard about the stampede. His mother and paternal aunt were visiting the event. The two have not returned home and their mobile phones are switched off.

"I was asked to uncover 10 bodies which were lying in the mortuary. None of them were of my mother and aunt. They then asked me to go to Aligarh and Etah as the rest of the bodies were sent there," said

Mr. Jatav was inconsolable when his brother called him to ask if he had managed to find the two. After weeping for a few minutes, a distraught Mr. Jatav left for Aligarh.

The Hathras hospital staff said they have not seen a human tragedy of such scale. "There were piles of bodies on the floor of the hospital yesterday. There was no space to walk," a staffer said.

At Phulrai village in the Sikandrarau area, where the meeting was held, a crowd gathered to witness the forensic teams screening the spot to ascertain the cause of the stampede.

"I have counted 300 bodies at this site. Buses and lorries were full. Many people left the spot with the bodies of their kin before the police could arrive and take them for post-mortem examination. The number of dead in this incident is far more than what is being told by the government," Satendar Bhavnoi from Phulrai village said.

Some men gathered at the venue and threw stones at the posters of Narayan Sakar Hari, the self-styled godman who is being held responsible for the stampede by the locals.

Vishal Kumar, who hails from Mathura, said he is yet to find his mother who was at the meeting.

At Sokhna village, Vinod was yet to accept that he lost his mother, wife, and 10-year-old daughter in the stampede.

He fainted every now and then while preparing for the cremation of the three whom he loved the most.

In shock: Vinod cries after the burial of his mother, wife and daughter after the stampede at Hathras on Tuesday. R. V. MOORTHY

Kishida and Putin express condolence

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida expressed condolences over the stampede in Hathras, U.P. "President of #Russia Vladimir Putin sent a condolence message to President of #India Droupadi Murmu & Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi over the tragic stampede in #UttarPradesh: Kindly accept the most sincere condolences," Russian Embassy in India posted on X.

Army chief reviews security along LoC in Jammu

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

General Upendra Dwivedi, who took over as the 30th Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) recently, on Wednesday visited forward posts in the Jammu region, which has witnessed heightened militancy this year.

An Army spokesperson said General Dwivedi, along with senior Army officers, visited the forward locations of the White Knight Corps, and reviewed the security situation along the Line of Control (LoC).

The COAS was briefed on operational preparedness by the Commanders on the ground, the Army spokesperson said.

General Dwivedi lauded all ranks for maintaining high standards of professionalism, and exhorted them to remain steadfast in meeting all current and emerging security challenges.

The Jammu province has witnessed about five militancy-related incidents this year, which left nine pilgrims, four militants, and a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan dead.

Rajinder Khanna is Additional National Security Adviser

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The National Security Council Secretariat has seen a series of changes in the past couple of days while also maintaining continuity.

Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West) in the External Affairs Ministry, has been appointed Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA).

In a significant move, Rajinder Khanna, Deputy NSA and former chief of India's external intelligence agency Research & Analysis Wing (RAW), has been promoted as Additional NSA. There was no Additional NSA so far.

"A former RAW chief, Mr. Khanna has been Deputy NSA (T&I) since January 2018. As in most other appointments, this signals continuity in the NSCS too," officials said.

The appointment of Mr. Kapoor as Deputy NSA follows the recent appointment of Vikram Misri as the next Foreign Secretary from July 15. The other appointment is of T. V. Ravichandran, IPS, as the Deputy NSA in place of Mr. Khanna. He is serving as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau.

With these changes, effectively there will be an Additional NSA in addition to three Deputy NSAs under NSA Ajit Doval. At the same time, former Border Security Force chief Pankaj Kumar continues as Deputy NSA. With the latest changes in the MEA, all eyes are on who would fill the positions of UN Permanent Representative in New York and Ambassador to the U.S. that are vacant at present and other important postings due to become vacant later this year.

(With inputs from Suhasini Haidar)

'Family of Agniveer killed in landmine blast will get compensation of ₹1.65 cr.'

Dinakar Peri
Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The Army late on Wednesday clarified that the family of Agniveer Ajay Kumar, who was killed in a landmine blast, would receive a compensation of approximately ₹1.65 crore. The Army emphasised that the "emoluments due to a fallen hero are paid expeditiously" to the next of kin of the departed soldiers, including Agniveers.

The Army's clarification was prompted by a social media post of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, in which he demanded an apology from Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for misleading Parliament.

"Certain posts on social media have brought out that compensation hasn't been paid to the next of kin of Agniveer Ajay Kumar who lost his life in the line of duty. It is emphasised that the Indian Army salutes the supreme sacrifice made by Agniveer Ajay Kumar. The last rites were carried out with full military honours," the Army said in a post on X.

The 23-year-old was killed on January 18 in a landmine blast near the Line of Control in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Of the total amount due, the family of Agniveer Ajay has already been paid ₹98.39 lakh, the Army said. *Ex gratia* and other benefits amounting to approximately ₹67 lakh, as applicable according to the provisions of the Agniveer scheme, will be paid on final account settlement shortly, post due police verification, it said. "The total amount will be ₹1.65 crore approximately."

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with the father of a deceased Agniveer. PTI

'Not entitled to pension'

Agniveers are not entitled to pension and emoluments on completion of four years of service but a lump sum package.

Earlier, Mr. Gandhi put out a video clip of the soldier's father claiming that the family had not received any compensation.

Smart Cities Mission period extended till March 2025

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has extended the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) under the Union Urban Development Ministry till March 31, 2025.

Under the SCM, launched in June 2015, 100 cities were chosen through a competition to be developed as smart cities. The mission envisions developing areas within selected cities in the country as model areas based on an area development plan, which is expected to have a rub-off effect on other parts of the city and nearby cities and towns.

More than 8,000 multi-sectoral projects are being developed by the 100 cities amounting to around ₹1.6 lakh crore under the SCM.

As on July 3, the 100 cities have completed 7,188 projects (90% of total projects).

No Indian industry presence in Board of National Research Foundation

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Executive and Governing Boards of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) – a high-level body conceived to give strategic direction to scientific research in India – has no representation from Indian industry, suggests a perusal of the list of members made public by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) earlier this week.

There is also no presence of State universities, which the ANRF had said would be among the major beneficiaries of the new structure.

The absence of Indian industry is glaring as the ANRF Act, passed in August 2023, was expected to galvanise research by having close to ₹36,000 crore or 70% of its five-year outlay of ₹50,000 crore from "non-government sources, industry & philanthropists, from domestic as well as outside sources".

Science Minister Jitendra Singh had said this in discussions surrounding the passage of the Bill in Parliament last year.

Appoint members

To this end, the text of the Act specifically empowered the President of the Governing Board – in this case the Prime Minister of India – to nominate or appoint up to "...five members from business organisation or industry", into the Board.

The 15-member Governing Board, as notified by the MoST, however, has only one industrialist – Romesh Wadhwani, an American billionaire of Indian origin and former CEO and chairperson of the Symphony Technology Group. There are two other Americans with Indian roots – Manjul Bhargava, Professor, Princeton University, U.S.; and Subra Suresh, Professor at Large, Brown University and former head of the U.S. National Research Foundation, from which the ANRF draws inspiration.

The foundation seeks to promote basic research in science and engineering.

Only two universities are represented in the Body by the Directors of the Indian Institute of Science, and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Union government, is the Member Secretary of the governing body, with the rest of the members being the Ministers of Science, and Education, and the Secretaries of the departments under the MoST.

The ANRF is a significant reform in that it proposes a more expansive definition of research, which includes science, engineering, Information Technology, Liberal Arts, Social Sciences, and the Humanities – the ANRF Board has among its members Raghuvendra Tanwar, Chair, Indian Council of Historical Research.

Centre issues advisory for ads on food and health products only

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on Wednesday issued a fresh advisory, asking advertisers and advertising agencies issuing advertisements for products and services related to the food and health sectors to upload an annual self-declaration certificate on the platforms made available for the purpose.

According to a senior Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA) office-bearer, the advisory supersedes all previous advisories issued by the Ministry. It is limited to the food and health sector only, meaning these sectors are only required to provide the self-declaration certificate annually.

According to the new advisory, the facility for uploading the self-declaration certificate by the advertisers/advertising agencies has been made available on the Broadcast Seva Portal for TV/radio advertisements and on the portal of the Press Council of India for the advertisements on print media/internet.

Accordingly, in view of the Supreme Court order dated May 7, 2024, and in suppression of the previous advisories dated June 3, 2024, and June 5, 2024, the advertisers/advertising agencies issuing advertisements for products and services related to food and health sectors have been advised to upload an annual self-declaration certificate on these platforms, as applicable.

Speaker forms committee to frame rules on oath-taking of members

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has constituted a committee to frame rules for "oath-taking and affirmation" of MPs, so that any deviations can be punished, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said at a press conference here on Wednesday at the end of the first session of Parliament after the new Lok Sabha was constituted.

There were several instances of members raising slogans while taking oath as MPs. Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi raised a slogan hailing Palestine, while Chhatra Pal Singh Gangwar, Bharatiya Janata Party MP for Bareilly, ended his oath with "Jai Hindu Rashtra".

"Oath or affirmation is a constitutional process, and there is no scope of politicising it. It is a solemn occasion, and there is a prescribed format to be followed. But this time, we saw several violations," Mr. Rijiju said.

He criticised the opposition for shouting slogans during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech in the Lok Sabha. "Interjections between a speech is fine, but constant heckling is not. The Congress should think that the Prime Minister is the leader of the country, they should respect the chair," he said.

There is no call yet on election of a Deputy Speaker, Mr. Rijiju said.

Kharge not allowed to intervene during PM's reply; INDIA walks out

Opposition leader says Modi gave wrong information in the House; Congress counters claim that situation in Manipur is normal, cites statement of an MP from State on the continuing tensions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

MPs of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance rallied behind the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, on Wednesday as they staged a walkout in protest against the Chair's decision not to allow him to intervene during the Prime Minister's reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address to the joint sitting of Parliament.

"We staged a walkout because the Prime Minister, while replying to the debate on the President's Address, gave some wrong information... It is his habit to tell lies, mislead people and speak against the truth," Mr. Kharge said after walking out during Mr. Modi's speech.

Accusing Mr. Modi of giving wrong information in the House, Mr. Kharge said the ideological mentor of the ruling BJP, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, was "anti-Constitution".

Mr. Kharge quoted a November 30, 1950 article from the RSS publication *Organiser* to assert that the organisation had opposed the Constitution saying it did not have anything Indian. "They had opposed and rejected the Constitution and now, they are talking about protecting it. They have been anti-Constitution since the beginning," he said.

Mallikarjun Kharge walking out of the Rajya Sabha along with Sonia Gandhi and other Opposition leaders on Wednesday. ANI

Congress leaders such as Sonia Gandhi and P. Chidambaram; Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar; Tiruchi Siva of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; Sagarika Ghose and Sushmita Dev of the Trinamool Congress; Mahua Maji of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha; Manoj Jha of the Rashtriya Janata Dal; and Priyanka Chaturvedi of the Shiv Sena (UBT) were among those who rallied behind Mr. Kharge.

Ms. Dev said the BJP had shown disrespect to the constitutional post of the Leader of the Opposition. "A saga of lies in the address of the Prime Minister in Rajya Sabha. The Opposition cannot be expected to sit through such a speech without a single opportunity to intervene," she said in a post on X.

Comments on Manipur

The Congress reacted to Mr. Modi's comments on Manipur. "Today in the Rajya Sabha, after months of absolute silence on the issue, the non-biological PM made the astounding claim that the situation in Manipur is normal. In actuality, the situation is still tense as the MP from Inner Manipur pointed out in the Lok Sabha on 1st July," the Congress Chief Whip in the Upper House, Jairam Ramesh, said.

"And the non-biological Pradhan Mantri has still not visited Manipur since it erupted on the night of May 3rd, 2023; nor has he met with the political leaders of the state. The President's Address too was silent on the issue," he said.

Mr. Ramesh responded to Mr. Modi's remarks in the Rajya Sabha that since the results came out, one Congress leader kept on beating the drum that there was a "one-third government" in place.

"What can be a bigger truth than this? We have completed 10 years, 20 more are left. One-third is done, two-thirds are left. So we are very happy for this prediction," Mr. Modi said in the House.

After the resounding personal, political, and moral defeat in the election, the Prime Minister's legitimacy and aura had been diminished to one-third – and he himself was dependent on two other 'Ns' [Nitish Kumar of the Janata Dal(U) and Telugu Desam Party leader N. Chandrababu Naidu] for his political survival, Mr. Ramesh said. His government was anyway on its last legs and could fall anytime, he added.

Expunge PM's remarks on Chopra and Sandeshkhali: Trinamool

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Trinamool Congress, in a letter to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, has demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments on flogging of a man and a woman at Chopra in West Bengal and the alleged incidents in Sandeshkhali be expunged from the record.

The party accused him of giving a "selective picture" of the two incidents.

Mr. Modi made the comments during his reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President in the Upper House. "A woman was being flogged in public. The woman was screaming but nobody stepped forward to help her and were instead making videos," Mr. Modi said, referring to an incident in Chopra, where the perpetrator was reportedly a Trinamool worker.

In a letter to Mr. Dhankhar, Trinamool MP Sagarika Ghose said the accused in the case had been "promptly arrested and are behind bars".

"The West Bengal Police are determinedly pursuing the investigation and all the guilty will be brought to justice," she wrote.

Mr. Modi, while flagging the Sandeshkhali events, accused the Trinamool Congress of being silent on the issue. Ms. Ghose termed the issue a "disgraceful conspiracy by the BJP to defame the people of Bengal".

Return Indians stuck in Ukraine warzone: Jaishankar to Lavrov

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

S. Jaishankar

Expressing "strong concern" about Indian nationals recruited for the war with Ukraine, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday called upon Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Astana on Wednesday to ensure their return to India soon.

Both Foreign Ministers met on the sidelines of the ongoing SCO Council meeting in the Kazakhstan capital. It comes less than a week before Prime Minister Narendra Modi travels to Moscow for the annual bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"[I] raised our strong concern on Indian nationals who are currently in the war zone. [I] pressed for their safe and expeditious return," Mr. Jaishankar wrote in a social media post after the meeting, adding that they discussed the India-Russia "bilateral partnership" and the "global strategic landscape".

Mr. Jaishankar's specific reference to the ongoing issues over Indians being hired as helpers by the Russian military to work on the frontlines indicates growing pressure on the government from their families in India to take up their cause, and suggests that Mr. Modi will also raise the issue with Mr. Putin during his visit on July 8-9. Four Indians have been killed in the fighting so far.

On June 25, the families of six of those stuck on the Russia-Ukraine war front, all of whom belong to the same village in Haryana, had travelled to Delhi to plead for action from the government. They met an official from the Eurasia division of the External Affairs Ministry to make their case.

As *The Hindu* has reported since January, dozens of Indian men, some of whom were duped with promises of jobs in Russia, have been petitioning the Indian Embassy in Moscow to help them return to India. While the government has cracked down on a number of recruitment agencies and has made several pleas to the Kremlin asking that those forced into working with the Russian Army be released from their contracts, the process has been slow.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted pictures of the meeting on Wednesday, but did not give any details of the issues they covered or any response to Mr. Jaishankar's statement about the Indians in the war zone.

(With inputs from Vijaita Singh)

Govt. reconstitutes Cabinet committees, several NDA partners included in panels

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government reconstituted various important Cabinet committees here on Wednesday.

Ministers of the Bharatiya Janata Party's National Democratic Alliance partners, Janata Dal (U), Telugu Desam Party, Janata Dal (S), Shiv Sena and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), have found place in the committees.

Most of the panels are headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to a government release on Wednesday, the Cabinet Committee on Appointments, which overseas various high-level appointments, has two members – the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The Cabinet Committee on Accommodation is headed by Mr. Shah and senior BJP Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman, Manohar Lal Khattar and Piyush Goyal are members. Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh is a special invitee to the panel.

Most of the Cabinet committees are headed by the Prime Minister

Security panel

The crucial Cabinet Committee on Security is headed by the Prime Minister and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Mr. Shah, Ms. Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar are its members.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, the panel that takes decisions on allocations and disbursements, is also headed by the Prime Minister. Mr. Singh, Mr. Shah, Ms. Sitharaman, Mr. Jaishankar, Mr. Gadkari, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Heavy Industries and Steel Minister and JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy are its members.

The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs is headed by Mr. Singh.

Mr. Shah, Union Health Minister and BJP president JP Nadda, Ms. Sitharaman, Mr. Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Ministers K. Rammohan Naidu, Kiren Rijiju, Virendra Kumar, Jual Oram, and C.R. Patil are its members.

The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, also headed by Mr. Modi, has Rajnath Singh, Mr. Shah, Mr. Gadkari, Ms. Sitharaman, Mr. Goyal, Mr. Nadda, Mr. Naidu, Ministers Jitan Ram Manjhi, Sarbananda Sonowal, Bhupender Yadav, Annpurna Devi,Mr. Rijiju and G. Kishan Reddy as its members.

Disappointed by disruptions in House, says Dhankhar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Jagdeep Dhankhar, during his remarks at the conclusion of the 264th session of the Upper House on Wednesday, expressed "deep disappointment" over recent disruptions in Parliament.

He said the action of Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge in entering the Well of the House was a disgrace to parliamentary propriety.

He said such actions undermine democratic values and set a dangerous precedent, antithetical to democratic values. "While there was active participation from both the Treasury and Opposition benches, it was disheartening to witness seasoned members conduct themselves irresponsibly," he said. He said that the House's productivity was over 100%.

'Attack' on Cong. office strengthens my point about BJP, RSS: Rahul

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The "BJP people" who "spread violence and hatred do not understand the basic principles of Hinduism", Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday as he hit out at the party for what he described a "violent attack" on the Congress office in Ahmedabad. In an X post, he said, "The cowardly and violent attack on the Gujarat Congress office further strengthens my point about the BJP and the Sangh Parivar. The people of Gujarat can clearly see through their lies and will teach BJP a decisive lesson."

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E TENDER NOTICE
O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Civil Circle, Pallom, Kottayam
E-tender ID: 2024_ KSEB_678316, PAC: Rs. 11,56,98,885/-, Last Date - 11.07.2024 02.00 pm,
O/o the Chief Engineer, (P & SCM), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_678614_1, PAC : Rs. 5,70,74,500/-, Last Date - 22.07.2024 03.00 pm.
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_678079_1, PAC : Rs. 34,25,28,604/-, Last Date - 25.07.2024 03.00 pm.
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_677860_1, PAC : Rs. 17,12,76,300/-, Last Date - 26.07.2024 03.00 pm.
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
Ref : PR/MC1/E504/E-tender/2024

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN– U40102RJ2000SGC016484 (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
CHHABRA THERMAL POWER PROJECT, CHHABRA
E-TENDER NOTICE
Online tenders are invited for TN-571(RVU2425WLOB00546) Annual rate contract for empanelment of transportation agency(s)/contractor(s) for transportation of ash from ash pond/dyke to various locations of user agency(s). Tender details are available on websites http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.
Raj.samwad/C/24/1621 RVUN/PR-4022 Addl. Chief Engineer (O&M)

Central Coalfields Limited
"A Miniratna Company"
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
NOTICE
All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in / respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, www.centralcoalfields.in), CIL e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION AMET (RAJSAMAND)
File No. 461-471 Date : 26.06.2024
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for Nit No 02/2024-25, (Road works) 2 Nos. are invited from interested bidders upto Date 18.07.2024, 06.00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. and – departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 315.25 Lacs.

NIB No. PWD2425A0414		
UBN No.		
1. PWD2425WSOB01554	2. PWD2425WSSS01555	

(Magni Ram Regar)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD DIVISION AMET
DIPR/C/5143/2024

TELANGANA MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HYDERABAD
(AN ENTERPRISE OF GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA)
4th Floor, TGMSIDC Building, DM & HS Campus, Koti, Sultan Bazaar, Hyderabad-500 095
Phone: 040 - 40032555 Email id: md_msidc@telangana.gov.in
(An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Organization)
Tender Notice No. 01/TGMS1DC/EQU/2024-25, Dated.03.07.2024
Tender is invited through e-procurement platform for the "Procurement of Furniture items to Government Hospitals/ Institutions in Telangana under Rate Contract for a period of 2-years". Managing Director, TGMSIDC reserves the right to cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reason. For complete details, please visit web site:https://tender.telangana.gov.in from 06.07.2024 onwards.
Sd/-
Managing Director
R.O. No. : 150-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 Date: 03-07-2024

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, RENGALI RIGHT IRRIGATION PROJECT, DHENKANAL, DIST - DHENKANAL, ODISHA, PIN-759001.
E mail Id – cerripdkl@gmail.com
'e' Procurement Notice - Bid Identification No.CERRIP-01/2024-25
The Chief Engineer, Rengali Right Irrigation Project, Mahisapat, Dhenkanal, on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites on line percentage rate bids in double cover system for construction of the work as detailed below:

1.	Name of the Work	: Excavation of Darpani Branch Canal from RD 29.205 km to RD 31.010 km including construction of its structures of Rengali Right Irrigation Project.
2.	Estimated Cost	: Rs.31,67,71,821.00
3.	Bid Document Cost	: Rs.10,000.00 (on line)
4.	Bid Security	: Rs.31,67,800.00 (on line)
5.	Class of Contractor	: 'Special' & 'Super' Class
6.	Period of Completion	: 24 Calendar months including rainy seasons
7.	Date and time of availability of Bid document in the portal	: From 10.07.2024, 10.00 AM to 05.08.2024 up to 5.30 PM
8.	Date and time and place for Pre-Bid Conference.	: 18.07.2024 at 11.00 AM O/o the CE, RRIP, Dhenkanal
9.	Last date and time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 05.08.2024 up to 5.30 PM
10.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)	: 06.08.2024 at 11.00 AM
11.	Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid	: Chief Engineer, Rengali Right Irrigation Project, Mahisapat, Dhenkanal, PIN - 759001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation to the above notice will be published in the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Chief Engineer, Rengali Right Irrigation Project, Dhenkanal
A-113: OIPR - 32351/11/0001/2425

कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड तारानगर
क्रमांकः 179-188 दिनांकः 18.06.2024
ई-निविदा सूचना सं.: 01/2024-25
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से तारानगर खण्ड के अन्तर्गत मिसिंग लिंक/नॉन पेचेबल सड़क निर्माण कुल 02 कार्यों हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी के सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हों, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-टेन्डरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा ऑनलाईन ई-निविदाएं आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। आर.पी.डब्ल्यू.ए.-100 की शर्तें लागू होगी। ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट dipr.rajasthan.gov.in एवं विभागीय वेबसाईट eproc.rajasthan.gov.in तथा sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
SPPP पर अपलोड NIB No. PWD2425A0276 के UBN No. निम्न प्रकार है :—
UBN No.: 1. PWD2425WSOB00983, 2. PWD2425WSOB00984
(ओ.पी. मण्डार)
अधिशाषी अभियन्ता,
सा.नि.वि. खण्ड-तारानगर
DIPR/C/5310/2024

CSIR - INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
HYDERABAD - 500007.
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW NOTIFICATION NO. 08/2024
CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad is conducting Walk-in-Interviews on 16th July, 2024 for the positions of Project Staff having qualifications of Ph.D in Chemistry / MSc in (Chemistry / Microbiology / Biotechnology) / B.Tech in Chemical Engineering etc.
For full details visit our website www.iictindia.org
Sd/-
Controller of Administration

राष्ट्रीय पृथ्वी विज्ञान अध्ययन केंद्र
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES
पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India
Akkulam, Thiruvananthapuram -11
No: NCESS/P&GA/9424/04/2024 Date: 03.07.2024
RECRUITMENT
NCESS conducts walk-in interview on 15.07.2024 at its campus in Thiruvananthapuram, for the post of Project Associate I on contract basis. Please visit website for details. Further changes, if any, will be notified through website only.
Website: www.ncess.gov.in /Phone No: 0471-2511500.
Sd/-
Senior Manager

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
office:VidyutBhawan, Janpath, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur 302005
Website: www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-I)
MM Building, Old Power House Premises,
Near Ram Mandir, Banipark, Jaipur-302006
Tel. 0141-2208098, E-Mail id:- semm1@jvvnl.org
NOTICE INVITING BID
e-tenders are invited for purchase of HT XLPE Insulated Cable 33 KV 300 sq mm 3 core (TN-4955) (UBN- VVN2425GLOB00199), 4-Core LT PVC Insulated Sheathed Armoured Cable of various sizes (TN- 4956) (UBN- VVN2425GLOB00200), 2-Core LT PVC Insulated PVC Sheathed Armoured Cable of size 2Cx4 sq mm (TN-4957) (UBN-VVN2425GLOB00201), LT XLPE Insulated Aerial bunched cable with bare messenger wire (1Cx25+25 sq mm) (TN- 4958) (UBN- VVN2425GLOB00202), ACSR Dog Conductor (TN-4959) (UBN- VVN2425GLOB00203), Rubber Hand Gloves (TN-4960) (UBN- VVN2425GLOB00205), Safety Helmets (TN-4961) (UBN-VVN2425GSOB00206), ACSR Rabbit Conductor (TN- 4962) (UBN-VVN2425GLOB00207), 11 KV 45 KN Disc Insulator T&C Type (Polymer)(TN-4947)(UBN- VVN2425GLOB00194), 33 & 11 KV Horn Gap Fuse Set with post Insulators (TN-4948)(UBN- VVN2425GLOB00195), 45 KN B&S Type (Porcelain) & 45 KN T&C Type (Porcelain) Disc Insulator (TN-4949)(UBN-VVN2425GLOB00196), 33 KV /11 KV / Stay Insulator (TN-4950) (UBN-VVN2425GLOB00197), Fixed (Jaw) and Moving (Pipe) Contact Assembly of 33 KV and 11 KV Isolators (TN-4951)(UBN- VVN2425GLOB00198), A B Cable Accessories (TN-4952) (UBN- VVN2425GLOB00193), 33 KV & 11 KV Cable Termination & Jointing Kits (TN-4953) (UBN- VVN2425GLOB00191), G.S. Stay Sets of Size 16X1800 MM &20X2400 MM (TN-4954) (UBN-VVN2425GLOB00192), Fabricated steel items (Non-welded), 33KV line DP, 1.8 mtr long MS Channel cut point with clamp, Stay Clamps suitable for 9 mtr. 400 Kg & 200 kg PCC Poles (TN-4963)(UBN- VVN2425GLOB00208), Fabricated steel items (Welded) 33 KV V cross arm (angle) with clamp and top hamper, 11 KV Top Hamper without clamp, (TN- 4964) (UBN-VVN2425GLOB00204), Galvanized MS Rod Type Earthing Sets(with clamps & GI wires) for three/ one phase transformer (TN- 4965)(UBN-VVN2425GLOB00209), MS channel 100x50x6 mm, MS Flat 50x6 mm, MS Angle 65x65x6 mm (TN- 4966)(UBN-VVN2425GLOB00216), 33 KV D/C Lattice Structure 42` long, 33 KV S/C Lattice Structure 36` long and 33/11KV S/S Structure for Urban Area (TN- 4967)(UBN-VVN2425GLOB00211), Wooden Ladders of sizes 22 ft. , 20 ft. and 18 ft. (TN-4968)(UBN-VVN2425GLOB00212), Safety Belts (TN-4969)(UBN-VVN2425GLOB00213), First Aid Boxes (TN-4970)(UBN- VVN2425GLOB00214), MS Nut and Bolts Size '12''x5/8', '10''x5/8' '08''x5/8' '06''x5/8' '04''x5/8' '2.5''x5/8' (TN-4971)(UBN-VVN2425GLOB00184). All the details regarding tenders are available at web site http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.
JPR–2865 (2024)
Raj.Samwad/C/24/1617
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-I)
For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

INBRIEF

Maintain vigil, says Centre as Maharashtra reports Zika

With some cases of the Zika virus reported from parts of Maharashtra, the Union Health Ministry on Wednesday issued an advisory to all States, highlighting the need for maintaining a constant vigil. States have been urged to focus on screening pregnant women for the virus and monitor the growth of the foetus of expecting mothers who tested positive for the infection. The Ministry also asked health facilities to identify a nodal officer to monitor and act to keep the premises free of Aedes mosquitoes. PTI

'Are you well?' Delhi HC asks man seeking to debar Modi

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday dismissed an appeal seeking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's debarment from the Lok Sabha over claims that he plotted a fatal air crash and indulged in anti-national activities. The court said that the person who filed the plea appeared to be suffering from mental health issues. "Are you well? Your application is inchoate. It is going from one end of the spectrum to another," the Bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela asked the petitioner, Captain Deepak Kumar.

In a repeat of 2023, vegetable prices upset family budgets

Consumer Affairs Ministry says situation will ease soon, but wholesale prices of tomato have gone up by 65.7%, onion by 35.36% and potato by 17.57% in past 30 days; officials say next harvest of tomato in States such as Karnataka will ensure supply

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The all-India average retail price of tomato was ₹55.04 for a kg on Wednesday. NAGARA GOPAL

Harking back to the high prices in July and August last year, when a kilogram of tomato cost as much as ₹250 in various parts of the country, its retail price and those of essential vegetables such as onion and potato have increased by 15% to 58% in the past month. The Union government, however, said the rise was temporary, and the prices, except that of potato, would be under control soon. The wholesale prices of the three vegetables have increased – by 65.7% for tomato, 35.36% for onion and 17.57% for potato – in the past 30 days.

The all-India average retail price of tomato was ₹55.04 a kg on Wednesday. On the corresponding date last month, it was ₹34.73 a kg, a 58.48% increase, says the Price Monitoring Division of the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry. Last year, on July 3, the price was ₹67.57 a kg. By July-end and in the first week of August in 2023, the price had touched ₹250 for a kg of tomato in various places.

The price of onion too is on the rise. Wednesday's all-India average retail price for a kg of onion was ₹42.46, an increase of 31.09% from the June price of ₹32.39. A year ago, on the corresponding date, the price was ₹25.04, thus showing a 69.57% increase year-on-year. The price of potato is also increasing. The all-India average retail price was ₹34.65 on Wednesday. One month ago, it was ₹29.97 and last year, it was ₹22.98 for a kilogram on the corresponding date. The price saw an increase of 15.62% from last month's and 50.78% from the corresponding date last year.

The Centre, however, said the situation would be under control soon. An official with the Department of Consumer Affairs, on the condition of anonymity, told *The Hindu* that the increase was temporary, and the Ministry expected the prices of tomato and onion to come down soon. However, the price of potato was likely to remain elevated during the season. The source said that the increase in the price of tomato was seasonal, and the situation would not be as bad as that of last year. "The second harvest of tomatoes in States such as Karnataka has started and it will ensure adequate supply in the markets," he said.

On onions, the official said its production during the last rabi season was down by 40 lakh tonnes and this was the reason for the increase in prices. "We are expecting a good monsoon. So once the sowing and transplantation scenario is clear, the prices will be stabilised. But for the time being, the prices will be on the higher side," he said.

He said the rate of release of potatoes from cold storage units was high recently. The prices would come down slightly in the coming days, but it would be higher than that of last year. "But it will be regulated," the official said.

He said the demand for potato was usually high during summer, and as green vegetables arrived in the markets during the monsoon, the demand would come down.

CBI arrests key accused in NEET paper leak case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday arrested an alleged key conspirator in connection with the Patna National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Under Graduate) paper leak case.

The accused, Aman Singh, was picked up by the agency from Dhanbad in Jharkhand following a tip-off. Earlier, three persons were arrested by the CBI from Hazaribagh for their purported role in the incident. They were identified as – a Hindi newspaper journalist Jamaluddin, Oasis School Principal Ahsanhul Haque and the Vice Principal Imtiaz Alam.

Two others allegedly involved in the racket were Manish Prakash and Ashutosh Kumar. They had helped in arranging Learn Boys Hostel and Play School on rent in Patna's Khemnichak, where the leaked papers were allegedly distributed to the 20 to 25 candidates gathered there on the eve of the test, so that they could memorise the answers.

India to host 46th UNESCO heritage panel session

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, being hosted by India from July 21-31, will be held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

The event will be attended by over 2,500 delegates from State Parties, advisory bodies, senior diplomats, heritage experts, scholars, and researchers from 195 countries, a senior official said. State Parties are countries which have adhered to the World Heritage Convention.

Sources said the event, being organised by the Archaeological Survey of India, is likely to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. UNESCO has already released a provisional agenda and timetable for the meeting.

The World Heritage Committee has representatives from 21 State Parties to the World Heritage Convention (1972) elected by the General Assembly.

NCERT textbooks for three subjects of Class 6 will reach students late

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Students are likely to get new books in two months. M. KARUNAKARAN

Students of Class 6 will be without textbooks for mathematics, science and social sciences as schools reopen for the academic year 2024-25 in July. The introduction of the new National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks based on the National Curriculum Framework and New Education Policy, 2020 for Class 6 has been delayed.

The NCERT had said that in 2024-25, students of Classes 3 and 6 would get new books.

"While new textbooks for Class 3 have hit the market, the entire lot for Class 6 has not yet been made available to students, leaving students with no textbooks to study from," an official from the Education Ministry told *The Hindu*. Officials said the students are likely to get the new books within two months.

Last July, the Ministry constituted the National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC) to develop new textbooks for Classes 3 to 12. It had set an ambitious deadline to develop new textbooks for all grades within seven months of constituting the NSTC by February. The deadline was later revised, and it was decided that only students of Classes 3 and 6 will get new textbooks this academic year.

However, the NCERT has not received drafts of the new books for social science, mathematics and science for Class 6 from the NSTC, officials said. Once the NSTC submits the approved drafts, the NCERT can issue a print order and make the textbooks available within 10 to 15 days.

At present, students of Class 6 are without textbooks for the three subjects because the NCERT was instructed not to print books with the old syllabus.

Even online, only books on the language subjects – English, Hindi and Urdu – are available for download. Ministry sources said there was a possibility that three books on social science subjects – *Our Pasts* (history), *Our Earth: Our Habitat* (geography) and *Social and Political Life* (political science) – will be merged into one. However, there is no clarity on this yet as the NSTC has not sent drafts for publication to the NCERT.

For Class 3, new books for English, Hindi, Urdu, mathematics, environmental education and arts are in the process of being printed and supplied, officials said.

Fourth generation texts

The new books will be the fourth generation of NCERT textbooks since the 1990s.

While the first generation was published in the 1990s, between 2002 and 2004, under the NDA government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, there were "pro-Hindutva" changes. A third generation of textbooks were released between 2006 and 2008 by the Congress-led government.

Air pollution spikes may raise death rates in cities with cleaner air, says study

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A spike in air pollution in Indian cities that have cleaner air may raise death rates higher than in cities that have higher pollution loads. Thus, the same increase in air pollution in, say, Bengaluru, can raise death rates more than in Delhi, which has much higher background levels of air pollution.

Overall, however, cities that had high pollution loads saw a greater fraction of annual deaths attributable to air pollution, with 11.5% of Delhi's annual deaths attributable to air pollution, and 4.8% in Bengaluru. The latter's population had 30% the exposure to daily air pollution that an average Delhi resident is subjected to, says a first-of-its-kind multi-city analysis in India that studied the health effects of short-term exposure to air pollution, published in the peer-reviewed *Lancet Planet Health* on Thursday. The scientists analysed pollution and death registry data from Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune, Shimla, and Varanasi.

Delhi had about 12,000 deaths linked to air pollution per year.

Nearly 30,000 deaths, or 7.2% of the annual deaths in the 10 cities, were due to short-term PM 2.5. The total daily deaths in these cities rose by 1.42% for every 10 microgram per cubic metre increase in the average PM 2.5 exposure over a two-day period, the study found.

From air pollution, Delhi had about 12,000 deaths per year and Shimla 59 a year – the lowest among the 10 cities – between 2008 and 2019. In the same period, Bengaluru had 2,102 deaths.

"Our findings confirmed that the risk of mortality rose more quickly at lower PM 2.5 levels but plateaued as levels increased. Significantly, we found mortality risk to be very high (2.65%) even when analysing days with PM 2.5 levels below the current Indian national air quality standard of 60 microgram per cubic metre," the authors, from multiple institutes in Europe and India, reported.

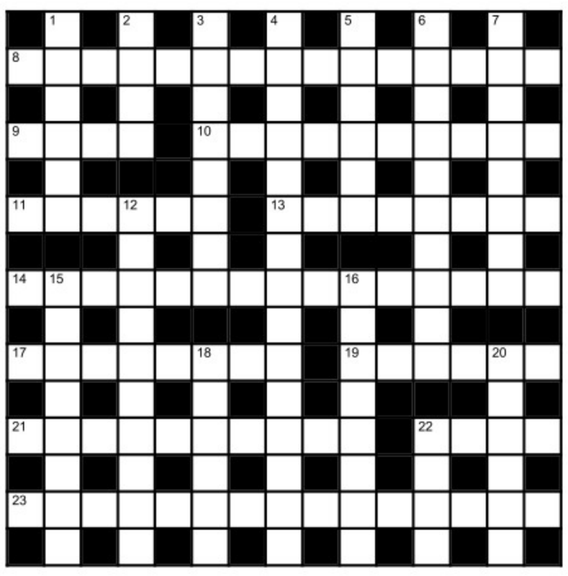
The variation in mortality in different Indian cities mirrors findings from similar studies in other countries. A 272-city study in China reported a 0.22% increase, per 10 microgram per cubic metre increase in PM 2.5. However, death rates were higher in Greece (2.54%), Japan (1.42%), and Spain (1.96%), which had lower base pollution levels.

TH CROSSWORD + 14218

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Flunking with his stupid, unrealistic idea (7,8)
9 Small radio enthusiast is fake (4)
10 Doubt popular judgement (10)
11 Shut if out for peep (6)
13 Some job structures hinder progress (8)
14 Vacation? Cold in England? Come with wine and immunity document! (7,8)
17 Pilot carried trash of sticky stuff that catches insects (8)
19 Make thinner, air fry maybe! (6)
21 These fishers with AI can make mineral water (10)
22 Price's about right! Gratis! (4)
23 Refer to nothing, talk and argue evasively after losing head on Zoom, for example (15)

Down

1 Height could be 12.5%? (6)
2 Fancy working hard in marketplace, at start (4)
3 Test car scoring 1 in 100 (8)
4 Accommodation for Lady Killer/Intelligence Officer, alone and slightly more than half mad (6,9)
5 Group of entertainers travelling about, mostly with people in general (6)
6 Short swashbuckling Indian batsman's small escapade, gets runs, stands tall like Burj Khalifa! (10)
7 One who implements some regimen for certain? (8)
12 Cosmetic item for loud master keeping Germany in control (4,6)
15 Hypersensitive - every unit of energy is consumed at start! (8)
16 Unknown street guard (8)
18 Quietly arrive at address (6)
20 Wild fire and ice! Most wild! (6)
22 Following the law for contract (4)

SUDOKU

		8	1	3		6		
2								
4	6			2	8			3
	2				6		7	
8								6
	9		7				3	
7			3	4			1	9
								7
		3		7	5	8		

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	P	E	R	P	E	N	D	I	C	U	L	A	R	
T		S		R		E		L		R		T		A
R	A	T	I	O		W	I	L	D	C	A	R	D	S
U		A		D		T		U		H		I		S
L	A	B	O	U	R		E	S	T	I	M	A	T	E
Y		L		C		E		T		N				R
	L	I	S	T	E	N	E	R	S		O	N	I	T
S		S		S		T		A		A		U		S
E	C	H	O		P	H	O	T	O	B	O	M	B	
T				C		U		E		U		E		R
T	I	C	K	L	I	S	H		U	N	T	R	U	E
L		A		A		I		S		D		O		V
E	N	C	O	U	R	A	G	E		A	C	U	T	E
S		H		S		S		E		N		N		L
	D	E	T	E	R	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	8	4	6	5	3	7	2	1
7	3	6	9	2	1	5	8	4
5	1	2	4	7	8	6	3	9
6	5	1	3	4	2	8	9	7
2	7	8	5	6	9	1	4	3
4	9	3	1	8	7	2	6	5
3	2	7	8	1	4	9	5	6
1	6	9	2	3	5	4	7	8
8	4	5	7	9	6	3	1	2

FAITH

Pay a visit to Divya Desams

We often face hindrances in material and spiritual progress. The supreme being is ever alert to the needs of those who reach out to Him for succour. The more *gnana* one develops, the better. One way to achieve this is to visit the Vaishnavite Divya Desams. Even the Pandavas visited a number of sthalams in south India in order to expiate their sins which they felt they had incurred due to the war, said Dushyanth Sridhar in a discourse.

Obstacles are a way of life and one should seek divine help to surmount them. The sthala puranam associated with the five abodes in Kancheepuram states that Brahma sought help from Perumal to conduct Ashvamedha Yagam without Saraswati. Each of the abodes testify to the various impediments she used to try to obstruct the yaga. When she sent eight women to stop the yaga, they were all stopped by Ashtabujanga Perumal, at Ashtapuyagaram.

At Tirutannka, Saraswati hindered Brahma's yaga by sending a demon to darken the world. On Brahma's prayer, Perumal appeared bright as a light, holding a lamp. Praying to the deity Vilakkoli Perumal will dispel one's inner darkness. Tiruvaelukkai is another place where Saraswati despatched demons to obstruct Brahma's work. Perumal took the form of Nrisimha to overpower them.

INBRIEF

Federal Bank records 20% loan growth in first quarter

Private sector lender Federal Bank on Wednesday reported a 20% growth in advances at ₹2,24,139 crore for the first quarter ended June 30. Total advances stood at ₹1,86,593 crore at the end of the first quarter of the last financial year, Federal Bank said in a regulatory filing. As per internal classification, retail credit book grew by 25% and wholesale credit book grew by 14%, the lender said, adding, retail-to-wholesale ratio stood at 56:44 respectively. PTI

CIEL HR Group turned a net profit of ₹6-crore in 2023-24

CIEL HR Group has posted a standalone net profit of ₹6 crore for 2023-24, against a net loss of ₹2.7 crore in the year-earlier period. The HR solutions provider logged ₹1,042 crore in revenue from operations, against ₹767 crore through a mix of organic and inorganic growth. "This accomplishment underscores our sustained growth trajectory driven by a strategic mix of organic expansion and strategic acquisitions," executive chairperson K. Pandiarajan said.

ACME Solar Holdings files papers for ₹3,000-crore IPO

Renewable energy firm ACME Solar Holdings Ltd. has filed preliminary papers with SEBI to raise ₹3,000 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The proposed IPO is a combination of fresh issue of shares worth ₹2,000 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of shares valued ₹1,000 crore by ACME Cleantech Solutions, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). The offer also includes a reservation for a subscription by eligible employees. PTI

'States GST kitty to rise 13-14% this FY'

CRISIL projects higher revenue growth of 8%-10% for India's top 18 States in 2024-25, from a 7.5% growth last fiscal; GST collections and tax devolutions from the Centre constitute about 50% of aggregate State revenues, as per the rating agency

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Revenues of India's top 18 States are likely to grow by 8%-10% this fiscal year to about ₹38 lakh crore, accelerating from a 7.5% uptick in 2023-24, largely aided by a rise in collections from the Goods and Services Tax (GST), CRISIL said.

These States, which include Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal and Rajasthan, account for more than 90% of India's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). GST collections and tax devolutions from the Centre constitute about 50% of aggregate State revenues.

Money spinners: Sales tax collections from petro products, which constitute 7-8% of revenue, were projected to grow 3-4%. FILE PHOTO

"The biggest impetus to revenue growth will continue to come from aggregate State GST collections that, after growing approximately 18% last fiscal, will climb 13%-14% in the current fiscal," said Anuj Sethi, senior director at CRISIL Ratings.

CRISIL reckoned that central tax devolutions to States would grow about 12%-13% this year, from about 19% in FY24. "While the proportion of the devolution is determined by the Finance Commission, the overall kitty is linked to gross tax collections by the Centre. This pool should grow at a healthy pace this fiscal as well, supported by rising income tax and GST collections," it said.

States' own revenues from taxes on liquor and petroleum were seen stable, with a marginal uptick in growth this year. Taxes on liquor, which account for 10% of revenue, were estimated to rise 5%-7% from 5.8% growth last year.

Sales tax collections from petroleum products, which constitute 7%-8% of States' revenue, were projected to grow 3%-4%, compared with a 1.4% rise in FY24. After a flattish performance last fiscal, the petroleum sales tax kitty would rise modestly due to higher fuel consumption and a largely unchanged tax structure, reckoned Aditya Jhaver, director, CRISIL Ratings.

Rating upgrade rests on fiscal deficit: S&P

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

In May, S&P had upgraded outlook for India to positive while retaining the rating at 'BBB-'

A sovereign rating upgrade for India in the next 24 months is possible if the Central government is able to prudently manage its finances and bring down fiscal deficit to 4% of GDP, an S&P Global Ratings official said on Wednesday.

S&P Global Ratings Director, Sovereign Ratings, YeeFarn Phua said the trigger for upgrade would be general government (Centre + States) deficit falling below 7% of the GDP, and a lot of this would have to be driven by the Centre.

"If the Central government is able to bring down fiscal deficit to 4% of the GDP, we will consider a rating upgrade over the next 24 months," Ms. Phua said.

The Centre estimates to bring down fiscal deficit to 5.1% of the GDP in the current fiscal from 5.63% in 2023-24. As per fiscal consolidation roadmap, the deficit will be brought down to 4.5% by 2025-26.

S&P had in May upgraded outlook for India to positive, from stable, while retaining the rating at 'BBB-'.

'Equity returns in next 3 years won't be good as last three'

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Equity market returns for investors in the next three years will not be as good as the last 3 years, a senior Franklin Templeton MF official said on Wednesday.

Chief investment officer for emerging markets equity R. Janakiraman, however, told reporters that the returns will be "respectable" and outperform other asset classes.

The comments come at a time when concerns are being raised about the high valuations in the equity market.

Franklin Templeton plans re-entry into fixed-income market

Suresh P. Iyengar
MUMBAI

Franklin Templeton Asset Management plans to re-enter the fixed income space after abruptly stopping six debt schemes with assets of ₹20,215 crore on account of a liquidity crisis in the debt market amid 2020 pandemic breakout.

Avinash Satwalekar, President of Franklin Templeton-India, said the fund house will enter the fixed-income market in the next three months, and the initial process is underway.

"We have already appointed a fixed market expert who is working on the strategy for our re-entry in managing debt funds," he added.

The fund house earlier appointed Rahul Goswami as chief investment officer and MD - Fixed Income.

"It is the right to have debt investment as part of portfolio diversification for investors with over three years investment horizon," Mr. Satwalekar said on the sidelines of an event to unveil Franklin India Multicap new fund offer.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Star Health eyes doubling GWP to ₹30,000 cr. by FY28

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Anand Roy

Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd., has drawn up plans to double its Gross Written Premium (GWP) to about ₹30,000 crore over four years.

"We are aspiring to grow faster than the industry," said MD and CEO Anand Roy at a press meet.

In FY24, the standalone private insurer recorded a GWP of ₹15,254 crore and net profit of ₹845 crore.

On Wednesday, the private insurer unveiled 100% cashless home health care services in 50 cities across India to avail treatment for infectious ailments. For this, the company has tied up with leading providers such as Care24, Portea, CallHealth and Athulya Homecare to offer in-home medical care.

Customers can now avail treatment for infectious ailments including fever, acute gastroenteritis, and urinary tract infection.

JSW Infra unit to develop cargo berth at Tuticorin Port

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Agreement is on a design, build, finance, operate and transfer basis to develop a seven MTPA berth

JSW Tuticorin Multipurpose Terminal Private Ltd., a subsidiary of JSW Infrastructure, said it had entered into a concession agreement with V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, for the development and mechanisation of North Cargo Berth-III (NCB-III) for handling dry bulk cargo.

The agreement is on a Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis.

The company will develop and mechanise a new seven MTPA cargo berth at the V.O. Chidambaranar Port, it said.

JSW Infra said in a statement that it would leverage its operational capabilities of handling bulk products and raise its cargo share on the east coast.

"The asset provides access to the rich hinterland with a diverse cargo profile including dry bulk, coal, limestone, gypsum, rock phosphate and copper concentrate," the firm said.

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

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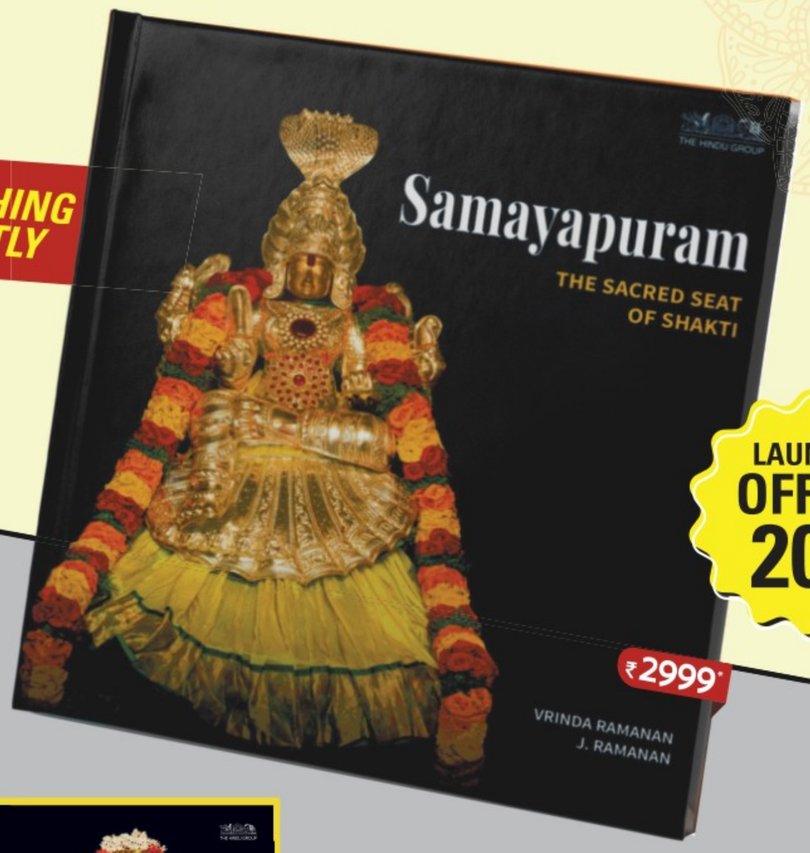

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'Domestic rubber crunch hitting tyre makers hard'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA) on Wednesday said its members were witnessing a 'severe crunch' in availability of domestic natural rubber, which might disrupt production unless supply issues of the raw material were addressed.

The association also expressed apprehension that "some sections of natural rubber producing interests or trade were withholding the material in anticipation of an increase in natural rubber prices, worsening the availability."

India faces high debt but sustainable for now: NCAER

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

At almost 82% of GDP, India's public debt is very high, but the country doesn't face debt-sustainability issue on account of high growth rate and higher share of local-currency debt, NCAER Director General Poonam Gupta said.

Participating in an event organised by NCAER, Ms. Gupta said the high debt levels are sustainable for now because of higher real or nominal GDP and as most of the debt is held in rupee.

The States together hold one-third of the total debt, and in the 'business-as-usual' situation, their debt levels will only increase further over the next five years, Ms. Gupta said.

"In a handful of States like Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, Debt-to-GDP ratio could increase by 50%," Ms. Gupta said, adding the States, including the most indebted ones, also don't face sustainability issue as they have implicit guarantee of the Centre and as States cannot hold debt in foreign currency or floating rate.

Drawing a comparison between Punjab, one of the most indebted Sates, and Gujarat, with low debt, she pointed out the most indebted States are ironically better off, as the interest rate is similar for all and in fact, more indebted States hold longer maturity and pay little premium.

'Need better deal'

"More prudent States need a better deal. They are de facto subsidising the more indebted States.

"The Finance Commission may reward such States for their fiscal prudence, and incentivise the profligate ones to become fiscally more responsible," Ms. Gupta added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	79,987	0.69
US Dollar	83.49	-0.01
Gold	72,550	-2.28
Brent oil	86.30	-0.55

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3190.95	37.75
Adani Ports	1510.65	35.80
Apollo Hosp	6192.70	95.10
Asian Paints	2925.55	-0.05
Axis Bank	1280.00	26.60
Bajaj Auto	9422.40	21.15
Bajaj Finserv	1594.15	14.40
Bajaj Finance	7258.80	93.20
Bharti Airtel	1419.85	0.90
BPCL	306.60	2.20
Britannia Ind	5449.10	47.45
Cipla	1483.75	-4.90
Coal India	484.95	5.85
Divis Lab	4559.15	-12.30
Dr Reddys Lab	6425.90	55.65
Eicher Motors	4692.30	66.55
Grasim Ind	2742.35	-0.60
HCL Tech	1481.00	0.20
HDFC Bank	1768.65	38.05
HDFC Life	596.15	6.35
Hero MotoCorp	5579.75	12.65
Hindalco	691.65	-3.10
Hind Unilever	2510.35	25.20
ICICI Bank	1201.60	11.00
IndusInd Bank	1455.50	26.05
Infosys	1627.40	6.35
ITC	428.30	2.80
JSW Steel	950.40	12.15
Kotak Bank	1810.70	41.10
L&T	3614.35	-12.15
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5466.40	-7.60
M&M	2877.95	12.80
Maruti Suzuki	12123.65	81.05
NestleIndia	2551.50	7.05
NTPC	372.65	2.25
ONGC	274.70	-0.15
PowerGrid Corp	335.15	4.35
Reliance Ind	3104.85	-25.50
SBI Life	1496.35	1.45
State Bank	839.95	13.80
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2850.45	25.55
Sun Pharma	1533.95	9.90
TataConsumerProduct	1146.35	41.35
Tata Motors	975.65	-5.65
Tata Steel	176.37	1.83
TCS	3965.25	-52.15
Tech Mahindra	1479.80	7.65
Titan	3360.25	-39.40
UltraTech Cement	11872.10	18.15
Wipro	539.00	0.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 03

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.33	83.65
Euro	89.66	90.00
British Pound	105.86	106.26
Japanese Yen (100)	51.46	51.66
Chinese Yuan	11.46	11.50
Swiss Franc	92.29	92.64
Singapore Dollar	61.43	61.67
Canadian Dollar	60.92	61.15
Malaysian Ringitt	17.65	17.73
Australian Dollar	55.59	55.82

Source:Indian Bank

A BG-BGE

MOSCOW

Russia's Dagestan bans niqab over 'threats' following recent attacks

AFP

Russia's Dagestan region on Wednesday issued a ban against the niqab in the Muslim-majority republic, citing security reasons after a recent attack against churches and synagogues. Last month, gunmen simultaneously attacked two churches, two synagogues and a police checkpoint in two cities in Dagestan, killing 22. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia claims to have captured key Ukraine town of Chasiv Yar

REUTERS

Russia said on Wednesday its forces had captured a district in the key hilltop town of Chasiv Yar near Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine, where Moscow has been pressing for months. The town, in Ukraine's Donetsk region, has strategic importance and its capture could allow Russia to mount further offensives in the region. AFP

TOKYO

Japan's top court rules forced sterilisation law unconstitutional

AFP

Japan's top court ruled that a defunct eugenics law under which thousands of people were forcibly sterilised between 1948 and 1996 was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court also ruled that a 20-year statute of limitations could not be applied, paving the way for compensation claims from victims after years of legal battles. AFP

KINGSTON

Hurricane Beryl kills seven as it churns towards Jamaica

AP

Hurricane Beryl churned towards Jamaica on Wednesday, with forecasters warning of potentially deadly winds and storm surge, after at least seven were killed and widespread destruction. The powerful hurricane was expected to pass over Jamaica around midday as a "life-threatening" Category 4 storm. AFP

Labour in lead, Tories vow to fight as U.K. goes to elections

Labour enjoys an approximately 20-point lead over the Conservatives in polling; its leader Keir Starmer, who has promised 'change' to the voters, accuses Tories of dissuading people from voting, with talk of a foregone conclusion; Prime Minister Sunak says he is 'fighting hard for every vote'; Liberal Democrats are expected to finish third; rightwing Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage, is also in the fray

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

As the last full day of campaigning dawned, the U.K.'s Conservative Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, faced with the prospect of a crushing defeat at the hands of the opposition Labour Party, said he was still "fighting hard for every vote".

Earlier in the day, one of his Cabinet colleagues, Work and Pensions Secretary Mel Stride, had told the *BBC* that the Conservatives should focus on the kind of opposition party they would become, with Labour on its way to getting the "largest majority that this country has ever seen". On July 2, former Home Secretary Suella Braverman had said the election was "over".

"What Mel was doing was warning of what a very large Labour majority, unchecked, would mean for people," Mr. Sunak said on Wednesday, in an interview with ITV, as the six-week campaign began drawing to a close.

Although the U.K. has had the highest tax burden in 70 years under the Conservative government, the last stretch of the Conservative campaign has focused on warning Britons that Labour as a party of taxation, should not be given such a large majority. "24 hours to top the tax-raising Labour supermajority," Mr. Sunak said on X.

Mr. Sunak, the fifth Prime Minister in his party's 14-year rule, and at risk of losing his own seat in Yorkshire, has been trying to reach out to workers by visiting warehouses and supermarkets in the last few days of the campaign.

Last-ditch effort: Rishi Sunak has been trying to reach out to workers by visiting warehouses and supermarkets. PTI

Sensitive issues

Britons have struggled with a cost of living crisis, high taxes and crumbling public services, including long waits to see doctors in the National Health Service. Immigration and borders are also a politically sensitive issue with some parties blaming migrants for the drain on public services. Both the major parties have promised checks on migration, with the Conservatives also promising an annual cap on legal migration.

Labour has consistently enjoyed an approximately 20-point lead over the Tories in polling. With support for the Conservative Party at a low, Mr. Sunak appeared to cut his losses when he surprised many by calling an election six weeks ago, months ahead of when it was expected.

A July 2 Survation poll predicted just 64 seats for the Tories (down from 365 in 2019) , with a record 484 for Labour. The Labour party, by some projections, is set to outdo its 1997 landslide victory when, under Tony Blair, it won 418 seats to defeat the John Major-led Tory government.

Labour leader Keir Starmer, who is likely to become Britain's Prime Minister on Friday, had a hectic day of campaigning planned, that began in Wales, and ended in England, with stops in Scotland en route.

Standing beside the First Minister of Wales, Vaughn Gething, Mr. Starmer talked about the "double benefit" of having two Labour leaders working together. "When we saw what might happen with Tata Steel in the latest development, our first act was to get in touch with each other, within minutes."

The Labour leader referred to Mr. Sunak allegedly being too busy to take a phone call from the former First Minister Mark Drakeford, following Tata Steel's announcement in January 2024 that it would be installing an electric arc furnace, to replace its blast furnaces – a move that would reportedly make close to 3,000 jobs redundant.

During his speech, he emphasised Labour's central campaign theme: 'change', as he warned against complacency. "We have to say over and over again, 'Change only happens if you vote for it,'" Mr. Starmer said in South Wales, home to Port Talbot steelworks, owned by Tata Steel.

Responding to Mr. Stride and others, Mr. Starmer said the Conservatives were attempting to "dissuade" people from voting.

It's not just about Labour and the Conservatives. The Lib Dems (Liberal Democrats) and Scottish National Party (SNP) and others are also in the fray. Lib Dem leader Ed Davey, whose campaign has included stunts – from bungee jumping to going down water slides – said on Wednesday that coming in at third place would be "nirvana" as it would give his party the chance to ask questions in Parliament each week during Prime Minister's Questions.

Also in the fray is Reform UK, right of the Conservative Party and led by Nigel Farage, who was the de facto leader of the U.K.'s Brexit movement. Reform is projected to win a handful of seats (up to 7), eating into the Conservative's vote share.

This election could also gain significance for another first: the largest share of ethnic minorities in parliament by some accounts, including several of Indian descent or born in India. Some 20-30 more MPs are likely to be ethnic minorities, according to an analysis by British Future, a think tank.

Sunak's performance has been disappointing: Rajesh Agrawal

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Rajesh Agrawal, the Labour Party's candidate in Leicester East, says issues around the economy, long waits for healthcare appointments and limited places in schools are some of the main issues facing his constituents, echoing some of the issues of concern across the U.K.

Madhya Pradesh-born Mr. Agrawal is one of several candidates born in India or with direct ties to India, running in the U.K.'s general election.

He was born to a school teacher and irrigation department worker and immigrated to the U.K. at the age of 24. Mr. Agrawal's constituency, Leicester East, has been a destination of Indian-origin migrants over the decades.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, Mr. Agrawal, an entrepreneur, says there is peace in Leicester now, and the Hindu and Muslim communities are proactively engaged to maintain that. He adds that while it is a matter of pride that Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is of Indian origin, his performance has been disappointing. "We are stuck in this very poor economy, which is growing extremely slowly. There are not enough well-paying jobs. People can't get GP appointments, and hospital appointments."

Mr. Agrawal says he has worked to forge ties between India and the U.K. as Deputy Mayor of London for Business.

(Scan QR code to read full interview)

'U.K.'s migration policy has to change to match the times'

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

U.K.-born Eric Sukumaran, who is running in the new London parliamentary constituency of Southgate and Wood Green on the Conservative Party ticket, says the U.K,'s migration policy should change to fit the times. "We are looking for productive members of our society. We are not anti-immigration, we are just anti uncontrolled immigration," Mr. Sukumaran, an entrepreneur and consultant with the World Bank, told *The Hindu* in an interview, referring to the Conservative Party's promise to put an annual cap on migration.

Mr. Sukumaran is a child of immigrants, has spent time in India as a child and speaks Malayalam.

(Scan QR code for full interview)

Taliban, U.S. envoys discuss the release of 2 American prisoners

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Taliban seek release of their members detained in the U.S. and Guantanamo in exchange

The Taliban's delegation to the third United Nations-led Doha meeting on increasing engagement with Afghanistan met with U.S. envoys on the sidelines and discussed the two Americans imprisoned in the central Asian country.

Zabihullah Mujahid told reporters in Kabul on Wednesday that the meeting aimed at "finding a solution." He said: "During our meetings, we talked about the two American citizens who are in prison in Afghanistan," adding "but they must accept Afghanistan's conditions. We should free our prisoners in exchange for them."

Special Representative Thomas West and Special Envoy Rina Amiri met directly with the Taliban, according to State Department spokesman Vedant Patel. Mr. West pressed for "the immediate and unconditional release of U.S. citizens unjustly detained in Afghanistan," Mr. Patel said on Tuesday.

When prodded if there was any headway on the matter, Mr. Patel said the issue "was just raised."

It was the first time that representatives of the Taliban attended the UN-sponsored meeting in Doha on Sunday and Monday that focused on increasing engagement with Afghanistan. However, a UN official said the gathering did not translate into a recognition of the Taliban government.

Sport

Brazil held by Colombia, to face Uruguay in quarterfinal

COPA AMERICA

Agence France-Presse
SANTA CLARA

Colombia came from behind to grab a 1-1 draw with Brazil on Tuesday, ensuring its qualification to the Copa America quarterfinals as group winner.

An equaliser from Daniel Munoz in first half stoppage time was enough to earn Colombia a share of the spoils after Raphinha had fired Brazil into the lead with a sublime 12th-minute free-kick at Levi's Stadium here.

The result means Colombia advances to the knockout rounds as winner of Group D, where it will face Group C runner-up Panama in Glendale, Arizona, on Saturday.

But Tuesday's draw means Brazil will face a titanic showdown in Las Vegas on Saturday against archrival Uruguay, winner of Group D with a perfect record.

Brazil will head into the quarterfinals without Real Madrid star Vinicius Jr, who picked up his second yellow card of the tournament for a reckless early foul on James Rodriguez on Tuesday.

Colombia playmaker Rodriguez had alarm bells ringing amongst Brazil fans from the ensuing free-kick, just clipping the top of the bar with goalkeeper Alisson beaten.

But although Colombia made the smoother start it was Brazil who took the lead after 12 minutes, with Raphinha curling a sensational free-kick into the top corner to make it 1-0.

Colombia however continued to threaten, Rodriguez volleying over the bar on the turn after 16 minutes.

Rodriguez thought he had set up Colombia's equalier three minutes later, supplying a pinpoint cross from a free-kick on the right for Davinson Sanchez to home. The goal was ruled out for offside after a VAR review.

Colombia looked the more assured side throughout the first half and in stoppage time its slick play got its reward, with Crystal Palace wing back Munoz blasting home after being released by a superb pass from veteran forward Jhon Cordoba.

Colombia looked comfortable through the second half and should have wrapped up victory in the final minutes only for substitute Rafael Borre to shoot over from eight yards with the goal gaping.

In Tuesday's other Group D game Costa Rica defeated Paraguay 2-1 in Austin to finish in third place.

The results:

Brazil 1 (Raphinha 12) drew with Colombia 1 (Munoz 45+2); Costa Rica 2 (Calvo 3, Alcocer 7) bt Paraguay 1 (Sosa 55).

Just reward: Colombia looked more assured against Brazil and defender Munoz finishes off a slick move for the equaliser. REUTERS

QUARTERFINAL LINE-UP

Argentina v Ecuador (6.30 a.m. Friday)
Venezuela v Canada (6.30 a.m. Saturday)
Colombia v Panama (3.30 a.m. Sunday)
Uruguay v Brazil (6.30 a.m. Sunday)

Second round of National motorcycling race from today

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The second round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI National motorcycle racing championships will commence at the Madras International Circuit, here on Thursday.

The weekend will see 18 races besides 10 qualifying and 11 practice sessions with over 100 riders from across India lining up on various grids.

Title sponsors MRF Tyres has decided to allocate slick tyres to the Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open category that should bring down the lap times.

Incidentally, the other premier class, the Pro-Stock 165cc Open has also greatly benefited from slick tyres in the past few seasons.

Two 17-year-old riders and TVS Racing teammates, Sarthak Chavan and Chiranth Vishwanath have established themselves as the front-runners and pace-setters in both classes that contain very experienced riders who have been around for over a decade.

Set to dominate

Another 17-year-old, Abdul Basim, looks set to dominate the Novice (Stock 165cc) category, having won both the races in Round-1 ahead of much older riders.

CONFIDENT

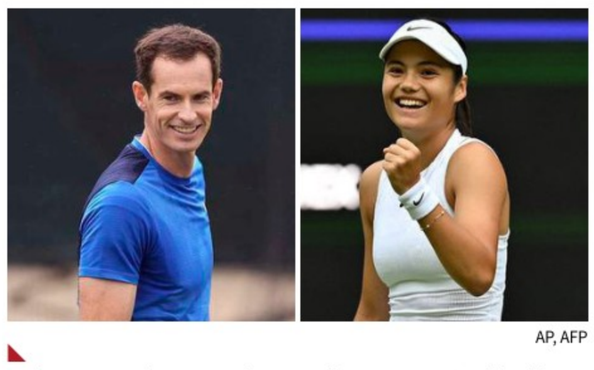
Kroos says Germany-Spain quarterfinal won't be his last game

AFP

Retiring Germany veteran Toni Kroos said he was confident Friday's blockbuster Euro 2024 quarterfinal against Spain would not be the last game of his career. "We will still be in the tournament for a while. I don't think it will be my last game. I think we'll see each other again — and I look forward to it," Kroos told reporters.

TEAMING UP

Murray to partner Raducanu for mixed doubles at Wimbledon



AP, AFP

Andy Murray and Emma Raducanu will team up in mixed doubles at Wimbledon. The news arrived on Wednesday, a day after Murray withdrew from singles a little more than a week after having surgery to remove a cyst from his spine. Murray is entered in men's doubles with his older brother, Jamie.

RIGHT ON CUE

Djokovic seeks snooker tips from 'Rocket Ronnie'

GETTY IMAGES

Novak Djokovic admitted that he is a huge fan of Ronnie "The Rocket" O'Sullivan, so much so that he invited the Englishman into his Centre Court box to see him open his campaign. "It was really nice to have him around. Hopefully we're able to play some snooker. I'm OK at pool or billiards, but snooker, I tried it twice, and it's really, really tough."

PULLING AWAY

Cavendish makes Tour de France history with 35th stage win

REUTERS

Briton Mark Cavendish claimed a record-breaking 35th victory on the Tour de France when he prevailed in the fifth stage, a 177-km ride from Saint-Jean-de-Maurienne on Wednesday. The 39-year-old had shared the record of 34 wins with Belgian great Eddy Merckx. Slovenian Tadej Pogacar retained the overall leader's yellow jersey.

Air India cancels flight to bring back cricketers

The Hindu Bureau

Air India cancelled a scheduled passenger flight from Newark to New Delhi on Tuesday to operate a chartered flight to bring back the stranded Indian cricket team from Barbados, sources said.

Emergency measure

Air India didn't explain how the passengers were accommodated, but insisted that the charter flight was arranged as an 'emergency measure'.

No information

The issue came to light after some passengers complained on X that they received no information on flight cancellation or alternative accommodation.

Meanwhile, aviation regulator DGCA has sought a report from the Air India on the issue.

It's coming home: World champion to have a rousing parade in Mumbai today

There will be an open bus ride from Nariman Point to Wankhede Stadium after which the squad will be presented the prize money of ₹125 crore

T20 WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team will take part in an open bus road show followed by a felicitation ceremony here at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday.

AIC24WC

The Indian team departed from the Barbados Grantley Adams International Airport in a chartered flight (AIC24WC: Air India Champions 24 World Cup) on Wednesday and is expected to reach New Delhi early on Thursday morning.

"The team has left from Barbados on a special Air India flight hired by the BCCI.

All smiles: Rohit & Co. departed from hurricane-hit Barbados on a chartered flight hired by the BCCI. PTI

"The Indian journalists who were stuck there (Barbados) are also coming on the same flight along with BCCI president (Roger Binny) and secretary (Jay Shah), who are looking after all the arrangements," BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla said.

"The flight will land at Delhi airport at 6.00 a.m. The team will meet PM Narendra Modi at 11.00 a.m. at his residence. After this, the team will fly to Mumbai, where a ceremony has been organised.

"There will be a road show from Nariman Point in an open bus and later we will honour and present the players with the prize money of ₹125 crore as announced," he added.

BCCI secretary Shah welcomed all fans to join the parade.

"Join us for the victory parade honouring Team India's World Cup win! Head to Marine Drive and Wankhede Stadium on July 4th from 5:00 pm onwards to celebrate with us," Shah posted on X.

India captain Rohit Sharma took to social media to welcome the fans.

"We want to enjoy this special moment with all of you.

"So let's celebrate this win with a victory parade. It's coming home," Rohit posted on X.

Gill's India touches down in Zimbabwe for five-match T20I series

Press Trust of India
HARARE

A young Indian cricket team, led by skipper Shubman Gill and with National Cricket Academy chief V.V.S. Laxman as coach, arrived here to play a five-match T20I series against Zimbabwe beginning on July 6.

"We welcome T20 World Cup champion India," Zimbabwe Cricket posted on X.

Riyan Parag said in a video posted by BCCI that he had a childhood dream of travelling with the Indian team. "The feel of donning India jersey, travelling with the side is different. Coming from Assam, I had this dream of playing for India."

Abhishek Sharma said from the day he started playing cricket, he had only one dream, which was to play for the country.

India-Pakistan Champions Trophy match slotted for March 1

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board has slotted its Champions Trophy match against India in Lahore on March 1 next year but the BCCI is yet to give its consent to the tentative schedule, a senior ICC Board member said on Wednesday.

The tournament is slated from February 19 to March 9 with March 10 as Reserve Day.

India to play in Lahore

It is understood PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who was invited to watch the T20 World Cup final in Barbados, submitted a 15-match schedule with all of India's games kept in Lahore for security and logistical reasons.

"The opening match will be held in Karachi with two semifinals in Karachi and Rawalpindi, final in Lahore. All India matches (including semifinal, if the team qualifies) in Lahore," the source added.

India has been clubbed with Pakistan, Bangladesh and New Zealand in Group A. Group B comprises Australia, South Africa, England and Afghanistan.

BCCI to consult govt.

"All board chiefs of the ICC Champions Trophy participating countries (excluding BCCI) have assured him of their complete support but BCCI will consult its government and update the ICC," the source added.

Gauff and Alcaraz advance; Fognini shocks Ruud

WIMBLEDON

Associate Press
LONDON

Coco Gauff likes No. 1 Court at Wimbledon.

It's where she beat Venus Williams back in 2019 when Gauff made her Wimbledon debut at age 15.

On Wednesday, Gauff beat qualifier Anca Todoni 6-2, 6-1 to advance to the third round at the All England Club.

"This is the court where I first started here at Wimbledon. Court 1 is always a special place for me to play on," Gauff said. The victory also allows the No. 2 seed to move another step away from last year's first-round exit.

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz trailed 6-5 in the first set before coming back to beat Alexsander Vukic 7-6(5), 6-2, 6-2, setting up a third-round meeting with No. 29 Frances Tiafoe after the American eliminated Borna Coric 7-6 (5), 6-1, 6-3.

When told by the on-court interviewer that Tiafoe said he's "coming after you," the 21-year-old Spaniard replied with a smile: "I'm going for him."

Fabio Fognini rolled back the years with a dazzling display to knock out eighth seed Casper Ruud 6-4, 7-5, 6-7(1), 6-3.

The 37-year-old produced his trademark brand of languid shot-making to largely dominate Ruud on Court Two.

Defeat left 25-year-old claycourt specialist Ruud still figuring out how to play his best on grass while Fognini is into the third round at Wimbledon for the seventh time in his 14th visit, although he has never gone further than that.

Achilles heel: Defeat left 25-year-old claycourt specialist Ruud still figuring out how to play his best on grass. REUTERS

In other results, four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka was eliminated in the second round by No. 19 Emma Navarro by a score of 6-4, 6-1.

Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden made short work of the Netherlands' Robin Haase and Sander Arends in the first round of the men's doubles. Sumit Nagal and Dusan Lajovic, meanwhile, bowed out to Pedro Martinez and Jaume Munar.

TOP RESULTS

Men: Second round:
5-Medvedev (Rus) bt Muller (Fra) 6-7(3), 7-6(4), 6-4, 7-5; 23-Bublik (Kaz) bt Cazaux (Fra) 6-4, 7-6(1), 6-4; Bautista Agut (Esp) bt Sonego (Ita) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
29-Tiafoe (USA) bt Coric (Cro) 7-6(5), 6-1, 6-3; 16-Humbert (Fra) bt Van de Zandschulp (Ned) 7-6(9), 6-1, 6-3; 3-Alcaraz (Esp) bt Vukic (Aus) 7-6(5), 6-2, 6-2; Fognini (Ita) bt 8-Ruud (Nor) 6-4, 7-5, 6-7(1), 6-3; 5-Medvedev (Rus) bt Muller (Fra) 6-7(3), 7-6(4), 6-4, 7-5.
First round: 21-Khachanov (Rus) bt Karatsev (Rus) 6-3, 6-7(4), 7-6(11), 2-0, ret; Norrie (GBr) bt Diaz Acosta (Arg) 7-5, 7-5, 6-3; 13-Fritz (USA) bt O'Connell (Aus) 6-1, 6-2, 6-4; 28-Draper (GBr) bt Ymer (Swe) 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.
Doubles: First round:
2-Bopanna (Ind) & Ebden (Aus) bt Haase & Arends (Ned) 7-5, 6-4.
Martinez & Munar (Esp) bt Lajovic (Srb) & Nagal (Ind) 6-2, 6-2.
Women: Second round:
Raducanu (GBr) bt Mertens (Bel) 6-1, 6-2; 19-Navarro (USA) bt Osaka (Jpn) 6-4, 6-1; Shnaider (Rus) bt Stephens (USA) 6-1, 6-1.
2-Gauff (USA) bt Todoni (Rou) 6-2, 6-1; Andreescu (Can) bt 26-Noskova (Cze) 6-3, 7-6(5).
First round: 20-Haddad Maia (Bra) bt Frech (Pol) 7-5, 6-3; 21-Svitolina (Ukr) bt Linette (Pol) 7-5, 6-7(9), 6-3; 31-Krejcikova (Cze) bt Kudermetova (Rus) 7-6(4), 6-7(1), 7-5; Putintseva (Kaz) bt Kerber (Ger) 7-5, 6-3; Wozniacki (Den) bt Parks (USA) 6-2, 6-0; 10-Jabeur (Tun) bt Uchijima (Jpn) 6-3, 6-1; 27-Siniakova (Cze) bt Stakusic (Can) 6-4, 6-2.

Fallen seeds
Men: 8-Ruud.
Women: 26-Noskova

Turkiye through to the quarterfinals after thrilling win over Austria

Rising high: Demiral heads in Turkiye's winner against Austria. GETTY IMAGES

UEFA EURO2024 GERMANY

Agence France-Presse
LEIPZIG

Turkiye will face the Netherlands in the quarterfinals of Euro 2024 after winning a thriller with Austria 2-1 as both countries reached the last eight of a European Championship for the first time since 2008.

Unlikely hero

Merih Demiral was the unlikely hero for Turkiye, in soaking Leipzig, after bundling his team ahead with less than a minute on the clock and then thumping in the decisive header just before the hour mark.

Vincenzo Montella's side, which was missing suspended captain Hakan Calhanoglu but once again backed by massive support at the Zentralstadion, will take on the Dutch in Berlin on Saturday after their comfortable 3-0 win over Romania earlier on Tuesday.

Turkiye was beaten 6-1 by Austria in March and Montella admitted he was hoping to get his own back for that embarrassing defeat.

"I denied it yesterday but today I can admit that Austria was the team I wanted so that I could get rid of that stain that as a coach I had on me," said Montella.

Turkiye will again be able to count on its raucous fans in the German capital as it aims to replicate its run to the last four from 16 years ago.

That tournament was co-hosted by Austria, who played a full part in an engrossing match and on another day may have run out winner.

Against run of play

Ralf Rangnick's side was on top for most of the match and in particular in the second half, when it pinned Turkiye back and conceded the second goal completely against the run of play.

Al-Ahli centre-back Demiral became the first European defender to score twice in the knockout stages of a major tournament since Lilian Thuram for France at the 1998 World Cup.

Michael Gregoritsch halved the deficit by forcing home Stefan Posch's flick on at another corner shortly after Demiral took his international goal tally to four in 48 caps.

But Austria couldn't capitalise on its dominance and went out after Christoph Baumgartner was denied a leveller in the final seconds of added time by an incredible Mert Gunok save.

The result: Austria 1 (Gregoritsch 66) lost to Turkiye 2 (Demiral 1, 59).

QUARTERFINAL LINE-UP
Spain v Germany (9.30 p.m., Friday)
Portugal v France (12.30 a.m. Saturday)
England v Switzerland (9.30 p.m. Saturday)
Netherlands v Turkiye (12.30 a.m. Sunday)

INBRIEF

Hardik becomes No. 1 all-rounder in T20Is

Hardik Pandya rose two places to become the first Indian to occupy the No. 1 spot in the ICC's T20I all-rounders' rankings on Wednesday, as the country's cricketers improved their standings following their title-winning performance in the just-concluded World Cup. The 30-year-old climbed up two places to go level with Wanindu Hasaranga as the top-ranked men's T20I all-rounder. Jasprit Bumrah moved up 12 spots to be just outside the top-10. He's at 12th, his highest position since the end of 2020.

Pragg, Gukesh play out draws, tied for second with Firouzja

R. Praggnanandhaa was held to a draw by Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania, while Gukesh signed the peace treaty with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France, in the sixth round of the Superbet Classic in Bucharest on Tuesday. Alireza Firouzja beat Wesley So of USA to be in joint second with the Indians on 3.5 points. USA's Fabio Caruana continued to lead with four points.

The results (round 6): R. Praggnaanandhaa (3.5) drew with Deac Bogdan-Daniel (Rom) 2; Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) 3 drew with D. Gukesh 3.5; Fabiano Caruana (USA) 4 drew with Ian Nepomnichtchi (FIDE) 3; Alireza Firouzja (Fra) 3.5 bt Wesley So (USA) 2.

Brazil to celebrate 'King Pele Day' every November 19

Brazil will celebrate a national 'King Pele Day' on Nov. 19 every year, marking the date the football great scored what he considered to be the 1,000th goal of his career in 1969, as per an official publication from the Brazilian government. Pele scored Santos' winner from the penalty spot in a 2-1 win against Vasco da Gama at the Maracana Stadium although some historians question whether that actually was the 1,000th goal of his career.

Messi not included in Argentina's Olympics squad

Lionel Messi won't be in Argentina's squad at the Olympics in Paris. Coach Javier Mascherano included four World Cup winners in the squad he announced Tuesday, including striker Julián Álvarez and defender Nicolás Otamendi. Messi, who has struggled with injuries this year, is now playing at the Copa America, aiming to defend the continental title he won in 2021.

Former high jump World champion Freitag found dead

South African former high jump World champion Jacques Freitag, 42, has been found dead with gunshot wounds having been missing for two weeks, South African media reported on Tuesday. The 2003 World champion was found in the grass near a cemetery in Pretoria West and police are treating the case as murder.

Abhay, Velavan get top billing in Asian doubles squash

The Indian duo of Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar has been given top billing in the men's section of the Asian doubles squash Championships which begins in Johor (Malaysia) on Thursday. Abhay also features in mixed doubles, pairing with Joshna Chinappa, the duo seeded third. Rathika Suthanthira Seelan and R. Pooja Arthi are fifth seed in women's doubles. The pairings won this year's National championships which was revived after 17 years with the support of SRFI's strategic partner HCL.

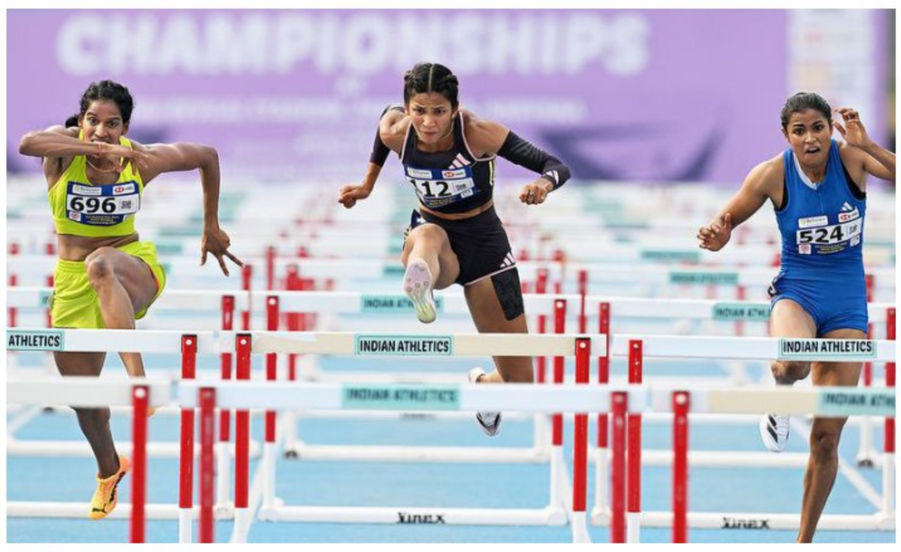
Hurdler Jyothi Yarraji beating the odds to realise her Olympic dream

Her mentor and SAI athletics coach Ramesh feels that the athlete has to focus on the small things after having shown remarkable resilience so far

ATHLETICS

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Not many may be aware that Jyothi Yarraji, who became the first Indian to qualify in hurdles for Olympics (100m women's in Paris later this month), had braved blood oozing out of her legs after repeatedly bumping into the hurdles during training sessions in the early days!



Blood, sweat and toil: Jyoti, who overcame physical distress, is focused on going for glory at Paris. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Dream come true

So, for her mentor N. Ramesh, the Sports Authority of India athletics coach, "it is a dream come true" that his 24-year-old trainee Jyothi has achieved this great feat.

For the record, Jyothi clocked 12.78 seconds in a Finland event in May, just one-hundredth of a second outside the automatic qualification time of 12.77 seconds.

She is at 34th in the world ranking quota list while 40 athletes will compete in the event in Paris.

"My thoughts go back to 2014 when I first spotted her during the SAI selection trials at Saroornagar Stadium in Hyderabad.

"First time I saw her, I felt because of her height, she should be good in hurdles," Ramesh recalls in a chat with *The Hindu*.

"It took a lot of time for us to mould Jyothi, who is from Visakhapatnam and born to a father who is a watchman and mother a domestic help, into a hurdler," Ramesh said.

> There is a big change in her attitude, technique and speed
>
> – **RAMESH,** SAI coach

"There were often blood stains on her body because of the rigorous training schedule. But, hats off to her indefatigable spirit she kept pursuing her passion between 2014-19, never complained," he explained.

"Jyothi's hard work, rare grit and determination to keep improving. The support system we ensured thanks to SAI, Gopi-Mytrah Foundation, being a great learner and having a terrific understanding of her event really helped her," Ramesh said.

"Definitely, moving over to Odisha Reliance Foundation in 2019, under the tutelage of James H. Miller, helped her cause further. Even Miller said strong basics are the biggest strength of Jyothi," Ramesh said.

"There is a big change in her attitude, technique and speed. She prepares mentally and physically for the big events much better now," he said.

"For someone who faced so many challenges on and off the track over the years, her maiden Olympics may not be a bigger challenge, having won medals in the Asian Track and Field, Asian Games and on the European circuit. She is ready for the big day," Ramesh said.

Focus

"My advice to her is, she still has a crucial few weeks left to prepare for the Paris Olympics, to stay focussed and avoid any kind of distractions. Just give your best," he said.

Advani starts defence with two wins in Asian billiards

Press Trust of India
RIYADH

Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani started his campaign at the 2024 Asian billiards championship with victories over Aung Phyo and Yuttapop Pakpoj here.

The 38-year-old, vying for a hat-trick of Asian billiards titles, beat Myanmar's Aung Phyo 4-2 and then emerged victorious in a thrilling clash over Thailand's Pakpoj 4-3.

"It is always good to start a tournament on a positive note.

"These two victories have boosted my confidence and I have my eyes set on my target," Advani said.

The results: Pankaj Advani bt Aung Phyo (Mya) 4-2
(100(86)-35, 104-34, 83(66)-101(54), 35-100(61), 100(53)-26, 100(100)-14).
Advani bt Yuttapop Pakpoj (Tha) 4-3 (100(93)-00, 101-03, 61-100, 102(99)-05, 79(70)-101(60), 80-100, 100(72)-18).

Deepika remains positive ahead of her fourth Olympic Games

ARCHERY

Y.B. Sarangi
PUNE

Approaching her fourth Olympics, archer Deepika Kumari understands the usefulness of controlling the mind and remains positive for Paris 2024. Deepika looks forward to using her experience.

"There's nothing going on in my mind. It's the fourth Olympics. It's a new event, a new team. I'll try to use my experience and control my thoughts," Deepika, who fought back to grab a place in the National side after experiencing motherhood two years ago, told *The Hindu* at the National camp on the Army Sports Institute campus here.

Deepika, the lone Indian woman to compete in the Tokyo Games, is aware that Indian archers have not been able to handle pressure at the Olympics. "Every match has different pressures and thoughts. I have trained so that I can manage those things. How much I will be able to manage will be known only at that time."

Geared up: Deepika looks forward to use her experience while taking part in Paris. FILE PHOTO

Leading the two younger archers, Ankita Bhakat and Bhajan Kaur, who will make their Olympics debut, Deepika displays a much calmer demeanour while playing the dual role as an athlete and the unofficial mentor of the Indian women's team.

"You have to go to the shooting line and shoot yourself. You have to put your 100% effort in every arrow. You should not depend on your team members."

Team bonding

But the trio is also working on team bonding. "If someone is not doing well, or we are not synchronizing, what do we think about that? There are three minds and three bodies. We should feel that only one person is performing."

Deepika – who lost 5kg in the last few months to remain in top shape for the Olympics – said getting a high score in the qualifying round would be important in order to get a decent rank in the Paris competition. "We will try to do well so that we get a good draw. Korea performs well at that stage. No one wants to play the first or second match with them."

Excitement

Understandably, both Ankita and Bhajan draw confidence from their fine shows in the World Cup Stage-3 recently amid the excitement of preparing for their first Olympics. "We will focus on staying positive and shooting confidently," said Ankita. "I am preparing well. I will take the same things (which have given me results) forward," said Bhajan.

All of them focus on the process to make the most of the women's team qualification earned after eight years.

Geoff Boycott reveals second cancer diagnosis

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Geoffrey Boycott has been diagnosed with throat cancer for the second time and will undergo surgery, the England cricket great announced on Tuesday.

Boycott, 83, was told last week the cancer had returned, having been previously treated for the illness in 2002 with chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

The former opener is now set to have an operation to remove the cancer in two weeks' time.

In a statement to *Daily Telegraph*, for which he is still a columnist, Boycott said: "It has now been confirmed I have throat cancer and will require an operation. From past experience I realise that to overcome cancer a second time I will need excellent medical treatment and quite a bit of luck... So I will just get on with it and hope for the best."

Chloe Tryon eager to catch up on lost time

SA IN INDIA

Lavanya L
CHENNAI

After multiple injury layoffs and time spent away from the 22 yards, South African all-rounder Chloe Tryon is raring to go as her team heads into the T20I leg of its multi-format tour of India.

"I love watching cricket, but don't like watching the Proteas play too much. It gets a bit stressful wishing I was there in the thick of it," Tryon told reporters here on Wednesday.

"You always want to be playing, especially in the subcontinent," Tryon said about missing out on game time courtesy a groin injury sustained during her last Women's Big Bash League season and a back issue soon after.

The 30-year-old spent plenty of time facing pace and spin in the nets here and worked particularly on the ball coming into the batter.

Tryon. CSA

Her explosiveness might just be what the Protean line-up needs as it takes on a strong Indian side in home conditions.

"When I started batting, I became this explosive hitter and I used to come in the third or fourth over and put so much pressure on myself to score runs, eventually getting out most of the time. Now, we're just kind of simplifying it and looking at it as 18 balls (at a time) and trying to stay there as long as I can."

Tryon said that South Africa is hoping to be more consistent over multiple phases in a game.

Vaidehi bows out in the first round

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Vaidehi Chaudhari was beaten 7-6(4), 6-4 by Alicia Smith of Australia in the first round of the $25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand, on Wednesday.

Other results:

$15,000 ITF men, Tianjin, China: Singles (first round): S Mukund bt Yang Xiaoyin (Chn) 6-3, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF men, Store, Slovenia: Singles (first round): Lukas Pokorny (Svk) bt Manas Dhamne 6-7(3), 6-1, 6-2.

$15,000 ITF men, Hillcrest, South Africa: Singles (first round): Ishaque Eqbal bt Patrik Oplustil (Cze) 4-6, 7-6(0), 6-3.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Ishaque & Aryan Shah bt Sergio Badini & Maximilian Figl (Ita) 6-1, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF men, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand: Singles (first round): Adil Kalyanpur bt Yamato Sueoka (Jpn) 6-3, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF men, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan: Singles (first round): Rakhim Ibrakhimov (Uzb) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-2 (retd.); Shinji Hazawa (Jpn) bt Karan Singh 6-4, 6-4.

$60,000 ITF women, Montpellier, France: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Amandine Hesse & Selena Janicijevic (Fra) bt Jenny Lim (Fra) & Vasanti Shinde 6-2, 7-5.

$25,000 ITF women, Hillcrest, South Africa: Singles (first round): Verena Meliss (Ita) bt Paavanii Paathak 6-1, 6-0.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Amanda Elkin (Mex) & Haine Ogata (Jpn) bt Sofia Avataneo (Ita) & Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-3, 6-3.

Matilde Mariani & Beatrice Stagno (Ita) bt Alicj Formella (Pol) & Paavanii Paathak 6-1, 6-2; Shria Atturu (USA) & Smriti Bhasin bt Grace Koenig & Erin McKenzie (RSA) 5-7, 6-3, [10-7]; Isabella Kruger & Zoe Kruger (RSA) bt Elena Jamshidi (Den) & Soha Sadiq 6-0, 6-3.

$25,000 ITF women, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand: Singles (first round): Ayumi Koshiishi (Jpn) bt Sonal Patil 6-2, 6-7(6), 6-3.

Ayano Shimizu (Jpn) bt Akanksha Nitture 6-0, 3-6, 6-3; Hikaru Sato (Jpn) bt Priyanshi Bhandari 6-1, 6-0.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Young champs: Likith and Aylin with their reward. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Likith and Aylin take the honours

Likith S. Gowda and Aylin M. Cornelio emerged the boys'and girls' singles champions respectively at the SAT-AITA U-16 championship series tennis tournament here on Wednesday.

The results (finals): Boys: Likith S. Gowda bt Ayaan M.K. Tareen 3-6, 6-2, 6-0.

Girls: Aylin M. Cornelio bt Lavanya Tiwari 6-1, 6-1.

Byatarayanapura nets a 'perfect 10'

Byatarayanapura thrashed Chamarajpet 10-0 in the Chief Minister's Cup football tournament here on Wednesday.

The results: Byatarayanapura 10 (B.H. Pravaruth 7, 12, Mrinal S. Gowda 18, K. Rakesh (OG) 19, Stephen Raj (OG) 30, J. Maria Dinesh 37, G. Nikhil 38, Mighael Gabriel Nile 48, 57, Mekala Yeshwanth Reddy 66) bt Chamarajpet 0; C.V. Raman 2 (M. Nikhil Raj 63, J. Godwin 70+4) bt Pulikeshi Nagar 1 (V.V. Deveshwar 70).

LIVE TELECAST

Wimbledon: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m. onwards

Badminton: Canada Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 9.30 p.m.